

The DOCTRINE
OF THE
Law and Grace
UNFOLDED:

OR, A
Discourse touching the *Law and Grace*.

The Nature of the One, and the Nature of the Other: Shewing what they are, as they are the *Two Covenants*; and likewise, Who they be, and what their Conditions are, that be under either of of these *Two Covenants*.

WHEREIN

For the better Understanding of the READER, there are several Questions answered, touching the *Law and Grace*, very easy to be Read, and as easy to be Understood, by those that are Sons of Wisdom, the Children of the *Second Covenant*.

ALSO

Several TITLES set over the several Truths contained in this BOOK, for thy sooner finding of them; which are those at the latter End.

By *J. Bunyan*, Author of the *Pilgrim's Progress*.

The FIFTH EDITION Corrected and Amended.

The Law made nothing Perfect, but the bringing in of a better Hope did; by the which we draw nigh to God, Heb. vii. 19. Therefore we conclude, That a Man is justified by Faith, without the Deeds of the Law, Rom. iii. 28.

To him therefore that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the Ungodly, his Faith is counted for Righteousness, Rom. iv. 5.

L O N D O N:

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W. H. Thompson
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Elizth THE Gray.
Epistle to the READER.

READER,

IF at any Time there be held forth by the Preacher, the Freeness and Fulness of the Gospel, together with the Readiness of the Lord of Peace to receive those that have any Desire thereto; presently it is the Spirit of the World to cry out, Sure this Man disdains the Law, slights the Law, and counts that of none Effect; and all because there is not, together with the Gospel, mingled the Doctrine of the Law (which is not a right dispensing of the Word according to Truth and Knowledge.) Again, if there be the Terror, Horror, and Severity of the Law discovered to a People by the Servants of Jesus Christ (though they do not speak of it, to the End People should trust to it, by relying on it as it is a Covenant of Works, but rather that they should be driven further from that Covenant, even to embrace the Tenders and Privileges of the Second) yet, poor Souls, because they are unacquainted with the Natures of these Two Covenants, or either of them; therefore, say they, Here is nothing but preaching the Law, thundring of the Law; when alas, if these two be not held forth (to wit) the Covenant of Works, and the Covenant of Grace, together with the Nature of the one, and the Nature of the other; Souls will never be able neither to know what they are by Nature, nor what they lie under. Also, neither can they understand what Grace is, nor how to come from under the Law, to meet God, in, and through that other most

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glorious Covenant ; thro' which, and only thro' which, God can communicate of himself Grace, Glory, yea, even all the good Things of another World.

I having considered these things, together with others, have made bold to present yet once more to thy View (my Friend) something of the Mind of God, to the End, if it shall be but blessed to thee thou mayest be benefitted thereby. For verily these things are not such as are ordinary, and of small concernment, but do absolutely concern thee to know, and that experimentally too, if ever thou do partake of the Glory of God thro' Jesus Christ, and to escape the Terror and insupportable Vengeance that will otherwise come upon thee thro' his Justice, because of thy living and dying in thy Transgressions against the Law of God. And therefore while thou livest here below, it is thy Duty (if thou wish thyself happy for the time to come) to give up thyself to the studying of these two Covenants, treated of in the ensuing Discourse ; and so to study them, until thou, thro' Grace, do not only get the Notion of the one and the other in thy Head ; but until thou do feel the very Power, Life, and Glory of the one and of the other. For take this for granted, he that is dark as touching the Scope, Intent, and Nature of the Law, is also dark as to the Scope, Nature, and Glory of the Gospel : And also he that hath but a Notion of the one, will hardly have any more than a Notion of the other.

And the Reason is this, because so long as People are ignorant of the Nature of the Law, and of their being under it, that is, under the Curse and condemning Power of it by reason of their Sin against it ; so long they will be careless and negligent as to the enquiring after the true Knowledge of the Gospel. Before the Commandment came (that is in the Spirituality of it) Paul was alive (that is) thought himself safe, which

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is clear, Rom. 7. 9, 10. compared with the 3d of Phil. the 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 ver. &c. But when that came, and was indeed discovered unto him by the Spirit of the Lord, then Paul dies (Rom. 7) to all his former Life (Phil. 3.) and that Man which before could content himself to live, tho' ignorant of the Gospel, cries out now, I count all things but Loss for the Excellency of the Knowledge of Jesus Christ my Lord, ver. 8. Therefore, I say, so long as they will be ignorant of the Nature of the Gospel, and how glorious a thing it is to be found within the Bounds of it; for we use to say, That Man that knoweth not himself to be sick, that Man will not look out for himself a Physician; and this Christ knew full well, where he saith, The whole have no need of a Physician, but them that are sick; that is, none will in truth desire the Physician unless they know they be sick. That Man also that hath got but a Notion of the Law (a Notion, that is, the Knowledge of it in the Head, so as to discourse and talk of it) if he hath not felt the Power of it, and that effectually too, it is to be feared, will at the best be but a Notionist in the Gospel; he will not have the experimental Knowledge of the same in his Heart: Nay, he will not seek, nor heartily desire after it; and all because, as I said before, he hath not the Experience of the wounding, cutting, killing Nature of the other.

I say, therefore, if thou wouldst know the Authority and Power of the Gospel, labour first to know the Power and Authority of the Law; for I am verily persuaded that the Want of this one Thing, namely, the Knowledge of the Law, is one Cause why so many are ignorant of the other. The Man that doth not know the Law, doth not know in deed and in truth, that he is a Sinner; and that Man that doth not know he is a Sinner, doth not know savingly that there is a Saviour.

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Again, That Man that doth not know the Nature of the Law, that Man doth not know the Nature of Sin; and that Man that knoweth not the Nature of Sin, will not regard to know the Nature of a Saviour, this is proved, John viii. 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36. This People were Professors, and yet did not know the Truth (the Gospel) and the Reason was, because they did not know themselves, and so not the Law. I would not have thee mistake me, Christian Reader, I do not say, that the Law of itself will lead any Soul to Jesus Christ; but the Soul, being killed by the Law, thro' the Operation of its Severity seizing on the Soul, then the Man, if he be enlightened by the Spirit of Christ, to see where Remedy is to be had, will not, through Grace, be contented without the real and saving Knowledge through Faith, of him.

If thou wouldst then wash thy Face clean, first take a Glass and see where it is dirty; that is, if thou would indeed have thy Sins washed away by the Blood of Christ, labour first to see them in the Glass of the Law (Jam. i.) and do not be afraid to see thy besmeared Condition, but look on every Spot thou hast; for he that looks on the Foulness of his Face by the Halfe, will wash by the Halfe; even so, he that looks on his Sins by the Halfe, he will seek for Christ by the Halfe. Reckon thyself therefore, I say, the biggest Sinner in the World, and be persuaded that there is none worse than thyself; then let the Guilt of it seize on thy Heart, then also go in that Case and Condition to Jesus Christ, and plunge thyself into his Merits, and the Virtue of his Blood; and after that thou shalt speak of the things of the Law, and of the Gospel, experimentally; and the very Language of the Children of God shall feelingly drop from thy Lips, and not till then.

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Let this therefore learn thee thus much. He that hath not seen his lost Condition, hath not seen a safe Condition; he that did never see himself in the Devil's Snare, did never see himself in Christ's Bosom. This my Son was dead, and is alive again, was lost, and is found; with whom we all had our Conversation in time past. But now are (so many of us as Believe) returned to Jesus Christ, the chief Shepherd and Bishop of our Souls.

I say therefore, if thou do find in this Treatise, in the first Place, something touching the Nature, End, and Extent of the Law, do not thou cry out therefore all on a sudden, saying, Here is nothing but the Terror, Horror, and thundring Sentences of the Law.

Again, If thou do find in the second Part of this Discourse something of the Freeness and Fulness of the Gospel; do not thou say then neither, here is nothing but Grace, therefore surely an undervaluing of the Law. No but read it quite thro', and so consider of it; and (I hope) thou shalt find the two Covenants (which all Men are under either the one or the other) discover'd, and held forth in their natures, ends, bounds, together with the State and Condition of them that are under the one, and of them that are under the other.

There be some that through Ignorance do say, how that such Men as preach Terror and Amazement to Sinners, are besides the Book, and are Ministers of the Letter of the Law, and not of the Spirit, the Gospel; but I would answer them, citing them to Luke 16th, from the nineteenth Verse to the End; and 1 Cor. vi. 9, 10. Gal. iii. 10. Rom. iii. from the ninth Verse to the nineteenth; only this Caution I would give by the Way, how that they which preach Terror, to drive Souls to the obtaining of Salvation, by the Works of the Law, that preaching is not the

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right Gospel preaching. Yet when Saints speak of the sad State that Men are in by Nature to discover to Souls their need of the Gospel, this is honest preaching (see Romans iii. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19. 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, &c.) and he that doth so, he doth the Work of a Gospel Minister.

Again, There are others that say, because we do preach the free, full, and exceeding Grace discovered in the Gospel, therefore we make void the Law; which indeed, unless the Gospel be held forth in the Glory thereof without Confusion, by mingling the Covenant of Works therewith, the Law cannot be established. Do we, through Faith, or preaching of the Gospel, make void the Law? nay, say, saith Paul, God forbid: We do thereby establish the Law, Rom. iii. 31.

And verily, he that will indeed establish the Law, or set it in its own Place (for so I understand the Words) must be sure to hold forth the Gospel in its right Colour and Nature; for if a Man be ignorant of the Nature of the Gospel, and the Covenant of Grace, they, or he, will be very apt to remove the Law out of its Place, and that because they are ignorant, not knowing what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

And let me tell you, if a Man be ignorant of the Covenant of Grace, and the Bounds and boundlessness of the Gospel, tho' he speaks and makes mention of the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and also of the Name of the New Covenant, and the Blood of Christ; yet at this very Time, and in these very Words, he will preach nothing but the Law, and that as a Covenant of Works.

Readers, I must confess it is a wonderful mysterious Thing, and he had need have a wiser Spirit than his own that can rightly set these two Covenants in their
right

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right Places, that when he speaks of the one, he doth not jostle the other out of its Place. O, to be so well enlightened, as to speak of the one, that is the Law, and to magnify the Gospel; and also, to speak of the Gospel, so as to establish (and yet not to idolize) the Law, nor any Particular thereof, it is rare! and to be heard and found but in very few Men's Breasts.

If thou should'st say, What is it to speak to each of these two Covenants, so as to set them in their right Places, and also to use the Terror of the one, so as to magnify and advance the Glory of the other?

To this I shall answer also, Read the ensuing Discourse, but with an understanding Heart, and it is like thou wilt find a Reply therein to the same Purpose, which may be to thy Satisfaction.

Reader, if thou do find this Book empty of fantastical Expressions, and without light, vain, whimsical Scholar-like Terms, thou must understand, it is because I never went to School to Aristotle or Plato, but was brought up at my Father's House, in a very mean Condition, among a Company of poor Countrymen. But if thou do find a Parcel of plain, yet sound, true, and home Sayings, attribute that to the Lord Jesus his Gifts and Abilities, which he hath bestowed upon such a poor Creature as I am, and have been. And if thou, being a seeing Christian, dost find me coming short, tho' rightly touching at some things, attribute that either to my Brevity, or if thou wilt, to my Weaknesses (for I am full of them.) A Word or two more, and so I shall have done with this.

And the first is, Friend, if thou do not desire the Salvation of thy Soul, yet I pray thee to read this Book over with serious Consideration; it may be it will stir up in thee some Desires to look out after it, which at present thou mayest be without.

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Secondly, If thou do find any Stirrings in thy Heart, by thy reading such an unworthy Man's Works as mine are; be sure that in the first Place thou give Glory to God, and give way to thy Convictions, and be not too hasty in getting them off from thy Conscience; but let them so work till thou do see thyself by Nature, void of all Grace, as Faith, Hope, Knowledge of God, Christ, and the Covenant of Grace.

Thirdly, Then in the next Place, fly in all Haste to Jesus Christ, thou being sensible of thy lost Condition without him, secretly persuading of the Soul that Jesus Christ standeth open armed to receive thee, to wash away thy Sins, to cloath thee with his Righteousness; and is willing to present thee before the Presence of the Glory of God, and among the innumerable Company of Angels with exceeding Joy. This being thus, in the next Place, do not satisfy thyself with these secret and first Persuasions, which do, or may encourage thee to come to Jesus Christ; but be restless till thou do find by blessed Experience, the glorious Glory of this Second Covenant extended unto thee, and sealed upon thy Soul with the very Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ. And that thou mayest not slight this my Counsel, I beseech thee in the second Place, consider these following Things

First, If thou do get off thy Convictions, and not the right Way (which is by seeing thy Sins washed away by the Blood of Jesus Christ) it is a Question whether ever God will knock again at thy Heart or no; but rather say, such a one is joined to Idols; let him alone, *Hos iv. 17.* Though he be in a natural State, let him alone. Though he be in, or under the Curse of the Law, let him alone. Though he be in the very Hand of the Devil, let him alone. Though he be a going Post-haste to Hell, let him alone. Though his Damnation will not only be Damnation for Sins against the Law, but also for slighting the Gospel, yet, let him alone. My Spirit, my Ministers, my Word, my Grace, my Love, my Pity, my common Providences, shall no more strive with him, let him alone. O sad! O miserable! who would slight Convictions that are on their souls, which tend so much for their Good? Se-

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Secondly, If thou shalt not regard how they do put off Convictions, put them off without the precious Blood of Christ, being savingly applied to thy Soul; thou art sure to have the mispending of that Conviction to prove hardening of thy Heart against the next time thou art to hear the Word preached or read. This is commonly seen, that those Souls that have not regarded those Convictions that are at first set upon their Spirits, do commonly (and by the just Judgments of God upon them) grow more hard, more senseless, more seared and sotted in their Spirits; for some who formerly would quake and weep, and relent under, the Hearing of the Word, do now for the present sit so senseless, so seared, and hardened in their Consciences, that certainly if they should have Hell Fire thrown in their Faces, as it is sometimes cried up in their Ears, they would scarce be moved; and this comes upon them as a just Judgment of God, 2 Thess ii. 11, 12.

Thirdly, If thou do slight these, or those Convictions that may be set upon thy Heart, by reading of this Discourse, or hearing of any other good Man preach the Word of God sincerely; thou wilt have the Stifling of these or those Convictions to account and answer for at the Day of Judgment! Not only the Sins that are commonly committed by thee in thy Calling and common Discourse, but thou shalt be called to a Reckoning for slighting Convictions, disregarding of Convictions, which God useth as a special Means to make poor Sinners see their lost Condition, and the Need of a Saviour. Now here I might add many more Considerations besides these, to the End thou mayest be willing to tend and listen to Convictions; as,

First, Consider thou hast a precious Soul, more worth than the whole World; and this is commonly worked upon (if ever it be saved) by Convictions.

Secondly, This Soul is (for certain) to go to Hell, if thou shalt be a Slighter of Convictions.

Thirdly, If thou go to Hell, thy Body must go thither too, and thence never to come out again. Now consider this, you that (are apt to) forget God (and his Convictions) lest he tear you in Pieces, and there be none

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But if thou shalt be such a one, that shall, notwithstanding thy reading of thy Misery, and also of God's Mercy, shall persist to go on in thy Sins; know in the first Place, that here thou shalt be left, by Things that thou readest, without Excuse; and in the World to come thy Damnation will be exceedingly aggravated, for thy not regarding of them, and turning from thy Sins, which was not only reprov'd by them, but also for rejecting of that Word of Grace that did instruct thee how, and which Way, thou shouldst be saved from them. And so farewell, I shall leave thee, and also this Discourse, to God, who I know will pass a righteous Judgment both upon that and thee. I am yours, tho' not to serve your Lusts and filthy Minds, yet to reprove, instruct, and according to that Proportion of Faith and Knowledge which God hath given me, to declare unto you the Way of Life and Salvation. Your Judgings, Railings, Surmisings, and disdainings of me, that I shall leave till the fiery Judgment comes, in which the Offender shall not go unpunished, be he you or me; yet I shall pray for you, wish well to you, and do you what Good I can. And that I might not write or speak in vain, Christian, pray for me to our God, with much Earnestness, Fervency, and frequently, in all your Knockings at your Father's Door, because I do very much stand in need thereof; for my Work is great, my Heart is vile, the Devil lieth at Watch, the World would fain be saying, Aha, aha, thus we would have it; and of myself, keep myself I cannot; trust myself I dare not; if God do not help me, I am sure it will not be long before my Heart deceive me, and the World have their Advantage of me; and so God be dishonoured by me, and thou also ashamed to own me. Oh therefore be much in Prayer for me thy Fellow. I trust in that glorious Grace that is conveyed from Heaven to Sinners, by which they are not only sanctified here in this World, but shall be glorified in that which is to come: Unto which, the Lord of his Mercy bring us all.

JOHN BUNYAN.

THE

THE
DOCTRINE
OF THE
Law and Grace Unfolded :
OR,

A Discovery of the *Law and Grace*: The Nature of the One, and the Nature of the Other, as they are the Two Covenants, &c.

Rom. vi. 14.

For ye are not under the Law, but under Grace.

IN the Three former Chapters, the *Apostle* is pleading for the Salvation of Sinners by Grace, without the Works of the Law, to the End he might confirm the Saints, and also that he might win over all those that did oppose the Truth of this Doctrine, or else leave them the more without Excuse: And that he might so do, he taketh in hand, First, To shew the State of all Men naturally, or as they come into the World by Generation, saying in the third Chapter, *There is none Righteous, no not one; there is none that understandeth; there is none that doth good, &c.* As if he had said, It seems there is a Generation of Men that think to be saved by the Righteousness of the Law; but, let me tell them, that they are much deceived, in that they have already sinned against the Law; *For by the Disobedience of one, many, yea all, were brought into a State of Condemnation,* Rom. v. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19. Now, in the 6th chap. he doth, as if he had turned

2 *The Words of the Text open'd,*

round to the Brethren, and said, My Brethren, you see now that it is clear and evident, that it is freely by the Grace of Christ, that we do inherit eternal Life. And again, for your Comfort, my Brethren, let me tell you, that your Condition is wondrous safe, in that you are under Grace; for saith he, *Sin shall not have Dominion over you*, that is, neither the damning Power, neither the filthy Power, so as to destroy your Souls: *For you are not under the Law*, that is, you are not under that, that will damn you for Sin; *But* (you are) *under Grace*, or stand thus in relation to God, that though you have sinned, yet you shall be pardoned, *For you are not under the Law*, &c. If any one should ask, What is the Meaning of the Word [UNDER?] I answer, It signifieth, you are not held, kept, or shut up by it, so as to appear before God under that Administration, and none but that; or thus, You are not now bound by the Authority of the Law, to fulfil it, and obey it, so as to have no Salvation without you so do; or thus, If you transgress against any one Tittle of it, you by the Power of it must be condemned: No, no, for you are not so under it, that is, not thus under the Law. Again, *For you are not under the Law*; What is meant by this Word [LAW?] The Word Law in Scripture, may be taken more Ways than one, as might be largely cleared. There is the Law of Faith, the Law of Sin, the Law of Men, the Law of Works, otherwise called the Covenant of Works, or the first, or old Covenant, *Heb. viii. 13. In that he saith a new Covenant*, (which is the Grace of God, or commonly called the Covenant of Grace) *he hath made the first old*; that is, the
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Covenant of Works, or the Law. I say therefore the Word [LAW] and the Word [GRACE,] in this sixth of the *Romans*, do hold forth the two Covenants, which all Men are under, that is, either one or the other. *For ye are not under the Law*; that is, you to whom I do now write these Words, who are and have been effectually brought into the Faith of Jesus: You are not under the Law, or under the Covenant of Works. He doth not therefore apply these Words to all, but to some, when he said, *But ye*, mark, [YE] *ye* Believers, *ye* converted Persons, *ye* Saints, *ye* that have been born again. (*Ye*) *for ye are not under the Law*; implying, others that are in their natural State, that have not been brought into the Covenant of Grace, by Faith in Jesus Christ. These Words therefore being thus understood, there is discovered these two Truths in them.

Doct. 1. First, That there are some in Gospel times that are under the Covenant of Works.

Doct. 2. Secondly, That there is never a Believer under the Law (as it is the Covenant of Works) but under Grace through Christ. *For ye* (you Believers, you converted Persons, *Ye*) *are not under the Law, but under Grace*; or, for you are delivered and brought into, or under the Covenant of Grace.

For the first, That there are some that are under the Law, or under the Covenant of Works, see I pray you that Scripture in the third of the *Romans*, where the Apostle speaking before of Sins against the Law, and of the Denunciations thereof, against those that are in that Condition, he saith, *What things soever the Law saith, it saith to them that are under it*; mark,

4 *What the Covenant of Works is.*

it saith to them that are under the Law, That every Mouth may be stopped, and all the World become guilty before God, Rom. iii. 19. that is, all those that are under the Law, as a Covenant of Works, that are yet in their Sins and unconverted, as I told you before. Again, *Gal. v. 18.* he saith, *But if you are led by the Spirit, you are under the Law,* implying again, that those which are for sinning against the Law, or the Works of the Law, either as it is the old Covenant; these are under the Law, and not under the Covenant of Grace. Again, *Gal. iii. 10.* there he saith, *For as many as are of the Works of the Law, are under the Curse,* that is, they that are under the Law, are under the Curse; for mark, they that are under the Covenant of Grace are not under the Curse. Now there are but two Covenants; therefore it must needs be that they that are under the Curse are under the Law; seeing those that are under the other Covenant, are not under the Curse, but under the Blessing. *So then they which be of Faith, are blessed with faithful Abraham,* but the rest are under the Law, *Gal. iii. 9.* Now I shall proceed to what I intend to speak unto.

First, I shall shew you what the Covenant of Works, or the Law is, and when it was first given, together with the Nature of it.

Secondly, I shall shew you what it is to be under the Law, or Covenant of Works, and the miserable State of all those that are under it.

Thirdly, I shall shew you who they are that are under this Covenant or Law.

Fourthly, I shall shew you how far a Man may go, and yet be under this Covenant, or Law.

For

For the First, What this Covenant of Works is, and when it was given.

The Covenant of Works, or the Law here spoken of, is the Law delivered on Mount *Sinai* to *Moses*, in two Tables of Stone, in ten particular Branches or Heads, for this see *Gal.* 4. The Apostle speaking there of the Law, and of some also that thro' Delusions of false Doctrine, were brought again, as it were under it, or at least were leaning that way, ver. 21, he saith, As for you that desire to be under the Law, I will shew you the Mystery of *Abraham's* two Sons, which he had by *Hagar* and *Sarah*; these two do signify the two Covenants, the one named *Hagar*, signifies Mount *Sinai*, where the Law was delivered to *Moses* on two Tables of Stone, *Exod.* xxiv. 12. chap. xxxiv. 1. *Deut.* x. 1. Which is that, that whosoever is under, he is destitute of, and altogether without the Grace of Christ, in his Heart at the present, *Gal.* v. 3, 4. *For I testify again to every Man* (saith he speaking to the same People) *that Christ is become of none Effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the Law, namely, that given on Mount Sinai. Ye are fallen from Grace.* That is, not that any can be justified by the Law, but his Meaning is, all those that seek Justification by the Works of the Law, they are not such as seek to be under the second Covenant, the Covenant of Grace. Also the *2 Cor.* iii. 7, 8. The Apostle speaking again of these two Covenants, he saith, *For if the Ministration of Death* (or the Law, for it is all one) *written and engraven in Stones* (mark that) *was glorious, how shall not the Ministration of the Spirit* (or the Covenant of Grace) *be rather glorious?* As if
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6 *What the Covenant of Work is,*

he had said, 'Tis true, there was a Glory in the Covenant of Works, and a very great Excellency did appear in it; namely, in that given in the Stones on *Sinai*, yet there is another Covenant, the Covenant of Grace, that doth exceed it for Comfort and Glory.

But secondly, Tho' this Law was delivered to *Moses* from the Hands of Angels on two Tables of Stone, on Mount *Sinai*; yet this was not the first Appearing of this Law to Man; but even this in Substance (tho' possibly not so openly) was given to the first Man *Adam*, in the Garden of *Eden*, in these Words, *And the Lord God commanded the Man, saying, of every Tree in the Garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the Day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die,* Gen. ii. 16, 17. Which Commandment then given to *Adam*, did contain in it, a forbidding to do any one of those things, that was and is accounted Evil, altho' at that time it did not appear so plainly, in so many particular Heads, as it did when it was delivered on Mount *Sinai*; but yet the very same: And that I shall prove thus:

God commanded *Adam* in Paradise, to abstain from all Evil against the first Covenant, and not from some Sins only; but if God hath not commanded *Adam* to abstain from the Sins spoken against in the Ten Commandments, he had not commanded to abstain from all, but from some; therefore it must needs be, that he then commanded to abstain from all Sins forbidden in the Law given on Mount *Sinai*. Now that God commanded to abstain from all Evil, or Sin, against any of the ten Commandments, when he gave

gave *Adam* the Command in the Garden, it is evident, in that he did punish the Sins that were committed against those Commands that were then delivered on Mount *Sinai*, before they were delivered on Mount *Sinai*, which will appear as followeth :

The first, second and third Commandments were broken by *Pharaoh* and his Men ; for they had false Gods which the Lord executed Judgment against ; (as in *Exod.* xii. 12.) and blasphemed their true God (*Exod.* vii. 17. to the End) for their Gods could neither deliver themselves, nor their People from the Hand of God ; but in the Things wherein they dealt proudly, he was above them, *Exod.* xviii. 11.

Again, Some judge that the Lord punished the Sin against the second Commandment, which *Jacob* was in some measure guilty of, in not purging his House from false Gods, with the defiling of his Daughter *Dinah*, *Gen.* xxxiv. 2.

Again, We find that *Abimelech* thought the Sin against the third Commandment, so great, that he required no other Security of *Abraham*, against the fear of Mischief, that might be done to him by *Abraham*, his Son, and his Son's Son, but only *Abraham's* Oath ; *Gen.* xxi. 23. the like we see between *Abimelech* and *Isaac*, *Gen.* xxxi. 53. the like we find in *Moses* and the *Israelites*, who durst not leave the Bones of *Joseph* in *Egypt*, because of the Oath of the Lord, whose Name, by so doing, would have been abused, *Exod.* xiii. 19.

And we find the Lord rebuking his People for the Breach of the fourth Commandment, *Exod.* xvi. 27, 28, 29.

And

8 *What the Covenant of Works is,*

And for the Breach of the fifth, the Curse came upon *Ham*, *Gen. ix. 25, 26, 27.* And *Ishmael* dishonouring his Father, in mocking *Isaac*, was cast out, as we read, *Gen. xxi. 9, 10.* The Sons-in-law of *Lot*, for slighting their Father, perished in the Overthrow of *Sodom*, *Gen. xix. 14, &c.*

The sixth Commandment was broken by *Cain*, and so dreadful a Curse and Punishment came upon him, that it made him cry out, *My Punishment is greater than I can bear*, *Gen. iv. 13.*

Again, When *Esau* threatened to slay his Brother, *Rebecca* sent him away, saying, *Why should I be deprived of you both in one Day?* hinting unto us, that she knew Murther was to be punished with Death, *Gen. xxvii. 54.* Which the Lord himself declared likewise to *Noah*, *Gen. ix. 6.*

Again, A notable Example of the Lord's Justice in punishing Murther, we see in the *Ægyptians* and *Pharaoh*, who drowned the *Israelites* Children in the River, *Exod. i. 22.* And they themselves were drowned in the Sea, *Exod. xiv. 27.*

The Sin against the seventh Commandment was punished in the *Sodomites*, &c. with the utter Destruction of this City, and themselves, *Gen. xix. 24, 25.* Yea, they suffer the Vengeance of eternal Fire, *Jude vii.* Also the Male *Sechemites* for the Sin committed by *Hamor's* Son, were all put to the Sword, *Gen. xxxiv. 25, 26.*

Our first Parents sinned against the eighth Commandment, in taking the forbidden Fruit and so brought the Curse on themselves, and their Posterity, *Gen. iii. 16.*

Again,

Again, the Punishment due to the Breach of this Commandment, was by *Jacob* accounted Death, *Gen.* xxxi. 30, 32. and also by *Jacob's* Sons, *Gen.* xliv. 9, 10.

Cain sinning against the ninth Commandment, as in *Gen.* iv. 9. was therefore cursed to the Earth, ver. 11. And *Abraham*, tho' the Friend of God, was blamed for false Witness by *Pharoah*, and sent out of *Ægypt*, *Gen.* xii. 18, 19, 20. and both he and *Sarah* reprov'd by *Abimelech*, *Gen.* xx. 9, 10, 16.

Pharoah sinned against the tenth Commandment, *Gen.* xii. 15. and therefore was plagued with great Plagues, ver. 17. *Abimelech* coveted *Abraham's* Wife, and the Lord threatned Death to him and his, except he restored her again, *Gen.* xx. 3. yea, tho' he had not come near her, yet for coveting and taking her, the Lord fast closed up the Wombs of his House, *verse* 18.

I could have spoken more fully to this, but that I would not be too tedious, but speak what I have to say with as much Brevity as I can. But before I pass it, I will besides this, give you an Argument or two more for the further clearing of this; that the Substance of the Law delivered on Mount *Sinai*, was before that delivered by the Lord to Man in the Garden. As first, Death reigned over them that had not sinned, after the Similitude of *Adam's* Transgression, (that is, though they did not take the forbidden Fruit, as *Adam* did) but had the Transgression been no other, or had their Sin been laid to the Charge of none but those that did eat of the Fruit, then those that were born to *Adam*, after he was shut out of the Garden, had not had Sin; in that they did not actually eat of that Fruit

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Fruit, and so had not been Slaves to Death. But in that Death did reign from *Adam* to *Moses*, or from the time of his Transgression against the first giving of the Law, till the time the Law was given on Mount *Sinai*; it is evident, that the Substance of the Ten Commandments was given to *Adam* and his Posterity under that Command, *Eat not of the Tree that is in the midst of the Garden*. But yet if any shall say, that it was because of the Sin of their Father that Death reigned over them; to that I shall answer, that altho' Original Sin be laid to the charge of his Posterity, yet it is also for their Sins, they actually committed, that they were plagued: And again, saith the Apostle, *For where there is no Law, there is no Transgression*, Rom. iv. 15. *For Sin is not imputed where there is no Law; Nevertheless Death reigned from Adam to Moses*, saith he, Rom. v. 13, 14. But if there had been no Law, then there had been no Transgression, and so no Death to follow after, as the Wages thereof; for Death is the Wages of Sin, Rom. vi. 26. and Sin is the Breach of the Law; an actual Breach in our particular Persons, as well as an actual Breach in our publick Person, 1 *John* iii. 4.

Again, they are no other Sins than those against that Law given on *Sinai*, for the which those Sins before-mentioned was punished; therefore the Law given before the Lord to *Adam* and his Posterity, is the same with that afterwards given on Mount *Sinai*.

Again, The Conditions of that on *Sinai*, and of that in the Garden, are all one, the one saying *Do this and live*, and the other saying the same. Also, Judgment denounced against Men in both Kinds alike; therefore this Law, it appeared

to be the very same that was given on Mount Sinai.

Again, the Apostle speaketh but of two Covenants (to wit, Grace and Works) under which two Covenants all are; some under one, and some under the other: Now this to *Adam* is one; therefore that on *Sinai* is one; and all one with this, and that this is a Truth, I say, I know that the Sins against that on *Sinai*, was punished by God; for the Breach thereof, before it was given there; so it doth plainly appear to be a Truth; for it would be unrighteous with God for to punish for that Law, that was not broken; therefore it was all one with that on *Sinai*.

Now the Law given on *Sinai*, was for the more clear Discovery of those Sins that were before committed against it; for though the very Substance of the Ten Commandments were given in the Garden, before they were received from *Sinai*; yet they lay so darkly in the Heart of Man, that his Sins were not so clearly discovered, as afterwards they were; therefore saith the Apostle, the Law was added, *Gal. iii. 19.* (or, more plainly, given on *Sinai*, on Tables of Stone) *that the Offence might abound*; that is, that it might the more clearly be made manifest, and appear, *Rom. v. 20.*

Again, We have a notable Resemblance for this at *Sinai*, even in giving the Law; for, first, the Law was given twice on *Sinai*, to signify, that indeed the Substance of it was given before. And secondly, the first Tables that were given on *Sinai*, were broken, at the Foot of the Mount, and the others were preserved whole; to signify, that though it was the true Law, that was

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was given before, with that given on *Sinai*, yet it was not so easy to be read, and to be taken Notice of, in that the Stones were not whole, but broken, and so the Law written thereon somewhat defaced, and disfigured.

But if any object and say, tho' the Sins against the one, be the Sins against the other, and so in that they do agree ; yet it doth not appear, that the same is therefore the same Covenant of Works with the other.

Ans. That which was given to *Adam* in Paradise, you will grant was the Covenant of Works; for it runs thus, *Do thus, and live, Do it not, and die ; nay, Thou shalt surely die.* Now there is but one Covenant of Works : If therefore I prove, that that which was delivered on Mount *Sinai*, is the Covenant of Works, then all will be put out of doubt. Now that this is so, it is evident :

First, Consider the two Covenants are thus called in Scripture, the one the Administration of Death, and the other the Administration of Life; the one the Covenant of Works, the other of Grace ; but that delivered on *Sinai*, is called the Ministration of Death ; that therefore is the Covenant of Works, 2 *Cor.* iii. *For if (saith he) the Ministration of Death, written and engraven in Stones, was glorious, &c.*

Secondly, The Apostle writing to the *Galatians*, doth labour to beat them off from trusting in the Covenant of Works ; but when he comes to give a Discovery of that Law, or Covenant, (he labouring to take them off from trusting in it) he doth plainly tell them, it is that which was given on *Sinai*, *Gal.* iv. 24, 25. Therefore that which was delivered in two Tables of Stone

on Mount Sinai, is the very same that was given before to *Adam* in Paradise, they running both alike ; that in the Garden, saying, *Do this and live ; but in the Day thou eatest thereof* (or doest not do this) *thou shalt surely die.*

And so is this on *Sinai*, as is evident, when he saith, *The Man that doth these Things shall live by them*, Rom. x. 5. and in case they break them, even any of them, it saith, *Cursed is every one that continueth not in all Thingt that are written in the (whole) Book of the Law to them*, Gal. iii.

10. Now this being thus cleared, I shall proceed.

A second Thing to be spoken to, is this, to shew what it is to be under the Law, as it is a Covenant of Works; to which I shall speak, and that thus:

To be under the Law, as it is a Covenant of Works, it is, *To be bound, upon Pain of eternal Damnation to fulfils and that compleatly, and continually, every particular Point of the Ten Commandments, by doing them ; do this, and then thou shalt live ; otherwise, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all (in every particular Thing or) Things that are written in Book of the Law to do them*, Gal. iii. 10. That Man that is under the first Covenant, stands thus, and only thus, as he is under that Covenant or Law. Poor Souls, through Ignorance of the Nature of that Covenant of Works, the Law that they are under, they do not think their State to be half so bad as it is ; when, alas ! there is none in the World in such a sad Condition again besides themselves ; for, indeed, they do not understand these Things. He that is under the Law, as it is a Covenant of Works, is like the Man that is bound by the

Law of his King, upon Pain of Banishment, or of being Hanged, Drawn, and Quartered, not to transgress any of the Commandments of the King : So here, they that are under the Covenant of Works, they are bound upon Pain of eternal Banishment and Condemnation, to keep within the Compass of the Law of the God of Heaven. The Covenant of Works may, in this Case, be compared to the Laws of the *Medes* and *Persians*, which being once made, cannot be alter'd, *Dan. vi. 8.* You find, that when there was a Law made, and given forth, that none should ask a Petition of any, God or Man, but of the King only : This Law being established by the King (*ver. 9.*) *Daniel* breaking of it, let all do whatever they can, *Daniel* must into the Lion's Den (*ver. 16.*) So here, I say, there being a Law given and sealed with the Truth, and the Word of God, (how that the Soul that sinneth shall die, *Ezek. 18. 4.*) whosoever doth abide under this Covenant, and dieth under the same, they must and shall into the Lion's Den : Nay, worse than that, they shall be thrown into Hell, to the very Devils.

But to speak in a few Particulars, for thy better understanding them, know, first, That the Law of God, or Covenant of Works, doth not contain it self in one particular Branch of the Law, but doth extend it self into many, even into all the *Ten Commandments*, and them Ten into very many more, as might be shewed : So that the Danger doth not lie in the Breaking of One or Two of these Ten only, but it doth lie even in the Transgression of any one of them. As you know, if a King should give forth Ten particular Commands, to be obey'd by his Subjects,

jects, upon Pain of Death : Now if any Man doth transgress against any One of these Ten, he doth commit Treason, as if he had brake them all, and lieth liable to have the Sentence of the Law, as certainly passed on him, as if he had broken every Particular of them.

2. Again, you know that the Laws being given forth by the King, which if a Man keep and obey a long time ; yet if at the last he slips and breaks those Laws, he is presently apprehended and condemned by that Law. These Things are clear as touching the Law of God, as it is a Covenant of Works : If a Man do fulfil Nine of the Commandments, and yet breaketh but One, that being broken, will as surely destroy him, and shut him out from the Joys of Heaven, as if he had actually transgressed against them all ; for indeed, in effect, so he hath : There is a notable Scripture for this in the Epistle of *James*, 2 chap. at the 10th ver. *For whosoever shall keep the whole Law, and yet offend in one Point, he is guilty of all ;* that is, he hath in effect broken them all, and shall have the Voice of them all cry out against him : And it must needs be so, saith *James*, because *he that said (or that Law which said) Do not commit Adultery, said also, Do not Kill. Now if thou commit no Adultery, yet if thou killest, thou art become a Transgressor of the Law.* As thus, It may be thou didst never make to thyself a God of Stone or Wood, or at least, not to worship them so really and so openly as the Heathen do ; yet if thou hast stolen, borne false Witness, or lusted after a Woman in thy Heart, *Mat. v. 28.* thou hast transgressed the Law ; and must for certain, living and dying under that Covenant, perish for ever such

the Law : For the Law hath resolved on that before-hand, saying, *Cursed is every one that continueth not in ALL Things* ; mark, I pray you, in all Things, that's the Word, and that seals the Doctrine.

3. Again, Though a Man do not covet, steal, murder, worship Gods of Wood and Stone, &c. yet if they do take the Lord's Name in vain, they are for ever gone, living and dying under that Covenant, *Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain* : There is the Command ; but how if we do ? then he saith, *The Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his Name in vain* : No ; though thou live as Holy as ever thou can'st, and walk as circumspectly as ever any did ; yet if thou doe'st take the Lord's Name in vain, thou art gone by that Covenant ; for *I will not*, mark, *I will not* (let him be in ever so much Danger) *I will not hold him guiltless that taketh my Name in vain*, Exod. xx. 7. and so likewise for any other of the Ten, do but break them, and thy State is irrecoverable, if thou live and die under that Covenant.

4. Though thou shouldest fulfil this Covenant, or Law, even all of it, for a long Time, ten, twenty, forty, fifty, or threescore Years, yet if thou chance to slip, and break One of them but once before thou die, thou art also gone, and lost by that Covenant ; for mark, *Cursed is every one that continueth not in all Things* ; (that is, continueth not in all Things, mark that) *which are written in the Book of the Law to do them* : But if a Man do keep all the Law of God his whole Life-time, only sin one Time before he dies, that one Sin is a Breach of the Law, and he hath not con-

continued in doing the Things contained therein ; (for, so to continue according to the Sense of this Scripture, is to hold on without any failing, either in Thought, Word, or Deed) therefore, I say, though a Man do walk up to the Law all his Life-time, but only at the very last sin one Time before he die, he is sure to perish for ever, dying under that Covenant. For, my Friends, you must understand, that the Law of God is (*yea*) as well as the Gospel ; and as they that are under the Covenant of Grace, shall surely be saved by it, so, even so, they that are under the Covenant of Works and the Law, they shall surely be damned by it, if continuing there. This is the Covenant of Works, and the Nature of it ; namely, not to abate any thing, no, not a Mite, to him that lives and dies under it : *I tell thee* (saith Christ) *thou shalt not depart thence* (that is, from under the Curse) *till thou hast paid the very last Mite*, Luke xii. 59.

5. Again, You must consider, that this Law doth not only condemn Words and Actions, as I said before, but it hath Authority to condemn the most secret Thoughts of the Heart, being evil, so that if thou do not speak any Word that is evil, as Swearing, Lying, Jesting, Dissembling, or any other Word that tendeth to, or savoureth of Sin, yet if there should chance to pass but one vain Thought thorough thy Heart but once in all thy Life-time, the Law taketh hold of it, accuseth, and also will condemn thee for it. You may see one Instance for all in the 5th of *Mat.* at the 27th and 28th Verses, where Christ saith, That tho' a Man do not lie with a Woman carnally, yet if he do but look on her, and in his Heart lust after her, he is counted by the Law, being rightly expounded,

such a one that hath committed the Sin, and thereby hath laid himself under the Condemnation of the Law. And so likewise of all the rest of the Commands, if there be any Thought that is evil do but pass thro' thy Heart, whether it be against God, or against Man in the least Measure, tho' possibly not discerned of thee, or by thee, yet the Law takes hold of thee therefore, and doth by its Authority, both cast, condemn, and execute thee for thy so doing. *The Thought of Wickedness is Sin.* Prov. 6. Again, The Law is of that Nature and Severity, that it doth not only enquire into the Generality of thy Life, as touching several Things, whether thou art upright there or no, but the Law doth also follow thee into all thy holy Duties, and watcheth over thee there, to see whether thou doest do all Things aright there; that is to say, whether, when thou doest pray, thy Heart hath no wandering Thoughts in it; whether thou do every holy Duty thou doest perfectly, without the least Mixture of Sin; and if it do find thee to slip, or in the least Measure to fail in any holy Duty that thou doest perform, the Law taketh hold on that, and findeth fault with that, so as to render all the holy Duties that ever thou didst, unavailable because of that: I say, if when thou art a Hearing, there is but one vain Thought, or in Praying, but one vain Thought, or any other Thing whatsoever, let it be Civil or Spiritual, one vain Thought once in all thy Life-time, will cause the Law to take such hold on it, that for that one Thing, it doth even set open all the Flood-Gates of God's Wrath against thee, and irrecoverably, by that Covenant, it doth bring eternal Vengeance upon thee; So that, I say, look
which

which ways thou wilt, fail wherein thou wilt, and do it as seldom as ever thou canst, either in Civil or Spiritual Things, as aforesaid ; that is, either in the Service of God, or in thy Employments of the World, as thy Trade or Calling, either in buying or selling any way, in any thing whatsoever: I say, if in any Particular it findeth thee tardy, or in the least measure guilty, it calleth thee an Offender, it accuseth thee to God, it puts a Stop to all the Promises thereof, that are joined to the Law, and leaves thee there as a cursed Transgressor against God, and a Destroyer of thy own Soul.

* Here I would have thee, by the Way, for to take notice, that it is not my Intent, at this time, to enlarge on the several

** If thou wouldst have a more full Discourse hereof, read Dod upon the Commandments.*

Commands in particular ; for that would be very tedious both for me to write, and thee to read : Only this much I would have thee to do at the Reading hereof ; make a Pause, and sit still one Quarter of an Hour, and muse a little in thy Mind thus with thyself, and say, Did I ever break the Law, yea, or no ? Had I ever in all my Life-time one sinful Thought passed thro' my Heart since I was born, yea, or no ? And if thou findest thyself guilty, as I am sure thou canst not otherwise chuse but do, unless thou shut thy Eyes against thy every Day's Practice ; then, I say, conclude thyself guilty of the Breach of the first Covenant. And when that this is done, be sure in the next Place, thou do not straitway forget it, and put it out of thy Mind, that thou art condemned by the same Covenant ; and then do not content thy self until thou do find, that God

hath sent thee a Pardon from Heaven, through the Merits of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Mediator of the second Covenant. And if God shall but give thee a Heart to take this my Counsel, I do make no Question but these Words spoken by me, will prove an Instrument for the directing of thy Heart, to the right Remedy, for the Salvation of thy Soul.

Thus much now touching the Law and the Severity of it, upon the Person that is found under it, having offended or broken any one Particular of it, either in Thought, Word, or Action; and now, before I do proceed to the next Thing, I shall answer four Objections that do lie in my Way; and also, such as do stumble most part of the World.

The first Objection. And first, But, you will say, methinks you speak very harsh; it is enough to daunt a Body: Set the Case therefore, That a Man after he hath sinned, and broken the Law, repenteth of his Wickedness, and promiseth to do so no more; will not God have Mercy then, and save a poor Sinner then?

1. *Answ.* I told you before, That the Covenant once broken, will execute upon the Offender, that which it doth threaten to lay upon him; and as for your supposing that your repenting, and promising to do so no more, may help well, and put you in a Condition to attain the Mercy of God by the Law: These Thoughts do flow from gross Ignorance, both of the Nature of Sin, and also of the Nature of the Justice of God. And if I was to give you a Description of one in a lost Condition for the present, I would brand him out with such a Mark of Ignorance as this is.

2. *Answ.*

2. *Answ.* The Law, as it is a Covenant of Works, doth not allow any Repentance unto Life, to those that live and die under it ; for the Law being once broken by thee, never speaks good unto thee, neither doth God at all regard thee, if thou be under that Covenant, notwithstanding all thy Repentings, and also Promises to do so no more. No, saith the Law, thou hast sinned, therefore I must curse thee ; for it is my Nature to curse, even, and nothing else but curse every one that doth in any Point transgress against me, *Gal. iii. 10. They brake my Covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord,* Heb. 8. Let them cry, I will not regard them ; let them repent, I will not regard them ; they have broken my Covenant, and done that in which I delighted not ; therefore by that Covenant I do curse, and not bless ; damn, and not save ; frown, and not smile ; reject, and not embrace ; charge Sin, and not forgive it. *They brake my Covenant, and I regarded them not :* So that I say, If thou break the Law, the first Covenant ; and thou being found there, God looking on thee thorough that, he hath no Regard on thee, no Pity for thee, no Delight in thee.

Object. 2. But hath not the Law Promises as well as Threatnings ? saying, *The Man that doth these Things shall live* (mark, he shall live) *by them,* or in them.

Answ. First, To break the Commandments, is not to keep or fulfil the same ; but thou hast broken them, therefore the Promise doth not belong to thee by that Covenant. Secondly, The Promises that are of the Law, are conditional, and so not performed, unless there be a full and continual Obedience to every Particular of

it, and that without the least Sin. *Do this*, mark, *do this*, and afterwards *thou shalt live*; but if thou break one Point of it once in all thy Life, thou hast not done the Law; therefore the Promises following the Law, do not belong unto thee, if one Sin hath been committed by thee. As thus, (I will give you a plain Instance) "Set the case there
 "be a Law made by the King, that if any Man
 "speak a Word against him, he must be put to
 "Death, and this must not be revoked, but must
 "for certain be expected on the Offender; tho'
 "there be a Promise made to them that do not
 "speak a Word against him, that they shall have
 "great Love from him; yet this Promise is nothing
 "to the Offender, he is like to have no Share in
 "it, or to be ever the better for it; but contrari-
 "wise, the Law that he hath offended must be
 "executed on him; for his Sin shutteth him out
 "from a Share of, or in the Promises." So it
 is here, there is a Promise made indeed, but to
 whom? Why, it is to none but those that live
 without sinning against the Law: But if thou
 (I say) sin one Time against it in all thy Life-
 Time, thou art gone, and not one Promise be-
 longs to thee, if thou continue under this Cove-
 nant. Methinks the Prisoners at the Bar, having
 offended the Law (and the Charge of a just
 Judge towards them) do much hold forth the
 Law, as it is a Covenant of Works, and how it
 deals with them that are under it. The Prisoner
 having offended, cries out for Mercy; good my
 Lord Mercy (saith he) pray my Lord pity me; the
 Judge saith, What canst thou say for thyself, that
 Sentence of Death should not be passed upon thee?
 Wny, nothing but this, I pray my Lord be mer-
 ciful:

ciful : But he answers again, Friend, the Law must take place, the Law must not be broken : The Prisoner saith, good my Lord spare me, and I will never do so any more : The Judge, notwithstanding the Man's out-cries, and sad Condition, must according to the Tenor of the Law, pass Judgment upon him, and the Sentence of the Condemnation must be read unto the Prisoner, though it makes them fall down dead to hear it, if he executes the Law as he ought to do. And just thus 'tis concerning the Law of God.

Object. 3. I, but sometimes (for all your haste) the Judge doth also give some Pardons, and forgive some Offenders, notwithstanding their Offences, though he be a Judge.

Answer. It is not because the Law is merciful, but because there is manifested the Love of the Judge, (not the Love of the Law) I beseech you to mark this Distinction ; for if a Man that hath deserved Death by the Law, be notwithstanding this, forgiven his Offence, it is not because the Law saith, spare him ; but it is the Love of the Judge (or chief Magistrate) that doth set the Man free from the Condemnation of the Law : But mark, here the Law of Men, and the Law of God do differ ; the Law of Man is not so irrevokable, but if the Supream please, he may sometimes grant a Pardon, without Satisfaction given for the Offence ; but the Law of God is of this Nature, that if the Man be found under it, and a Transgressor, or one that hath transgressed against it, before that Prisoner can be released, there must be a full and compleat Satisfaction given to it, either by the Man's own Life, or by the Blood of some other Men ; *for without shedding of Blood there is no Remission*, Heb. ix. 22.

that is, there is no Deliverance from under the Curse of the Law of God; and therefore, however the Law of Man made be made of none Effect, sometimes by shewing Mercy without giving of a full Satisfaction, yet the Law of God cannot be so contented, nor at the least give Way, that the Person offending that, would escape the Curse, and not be damned, except some one do give a full and compleat Satisfaction to it for him, and bring the Prisoner into another Covenant, (to wit) the Covenant of Grace, which is more easy, and Soul-refreshing, and Sin-pardoning.

I say therefore, you must understand, that if there be a Law made that reaches the Life, to take it away for the Offence given by the Offender against it; then it is clear, that if the Man be spared and saved, it is not the Law that doth give the Man this Advantage, but it is the meer Mercy of the King, either because he hath a Ransom, or Satisfaction some other Way, or being provoked thereto out of his own Love to the Person whom he saveth. Now thou also having transgressed and broken the Law of God, if the Law be not executed upon thee, it is not because the Law is merciful, or can pass by the least Offence done by thee, but thy Deliverance comes another Way: Therefore I say, however it be by the Laws of Men, where they be corrupted and perverted, yet the Law of God is of that Nature, that it it hath not thy own Blood, or the Blood of some other Man (for it calls for no less) for to ransom thee from the Curse of it, being due to thee for thy Transgression, and to satisfy the Cries, the doleful Cries thereof, and ever for to present thee pure and spotless before God

God (notwithstanding this fiery Law) thou art gone if thou hadst a thousand Souls ; *For without shedding of Blood there is no Remission*, Heb. ix. 22. No Forgiveness of the least Sin against the Law.

Object. 4. But, you will say, I do not only repent me of my former Life, and also promise to do so no more, but now I do labour to be righteous, and to live a holy Life ; and now instead of being a Breaker of the Law, I do labour to fulfil the same ; what say you to that ?

Answer. Set the Case thou could walk like an Angel of God ; set the Case thou could fulfil the whole Law, and live from this Day to thy Life's End, without sinning in Thought, Word or Deed, which is impossible ; but, I say, set the Case it should be so, why, thy State is as bad (if thou be under the first Covenant) as ever it was. For, first, I know thou dar'st not say but thou hast, at one Time or other sinned ; and, if so, then the Law hath condemned thee ; and, if so, then I am sure, that thou, with all thy Actions, and Works of Righteousness, canst not remove the dreadful and irresistible Curse that is already laid upon thee, by that Law which thou art under, and which thou hast sinned against ; though thou livest the holiest Life that any Man can live in this World, being under the Law of Works, and not so under the Covenant of Grace, thou must be cut off without Remedy ; for thou hast sinned, though afterwards thou live never so well.

The Reasons for this that hath been spoken, are these :

First, The Nature of God's Justice calls for it that is, it calls for irrecoverable Ruin on them that

that transgress against this Law : For Justice gave it, and Justice looks to have it compleatly, and continually obeyed, or else Justice is resolved to take Place, and execute its Office, which is to punish the Transgressor against it ; you must understand that the Justice of God is as unchangeable as his Love ; his Justice cannot change its Nature, Justice it is, if it be pleased, and Justice it is, if it be displeased. The Justice of God in this Place may be compared to Fire ; there is a great Fire made in some Places if thou do keep out of it, it is Fire ; if thou do fall into it thou wilt find it Fire ; and therefore the Apostle useth this as an Argument to stir up the *Hebrews* to stick close to Jesus Christ, lest they fall under the Justice of God, by these Words, *Heb. xii. 29. For our God is a consuming Fire* : into which if thou fall, it is not for thee to get out again, as it is with some that fall into a material Fire ; no, but he that falls into this, he must lie there for ever ; as it is clear where he saith, *Isa. xxxiii. 14. Who among us can dwell with everlasting Burnings, and with devouring Fire ?* For Justice once offended, knoweth not how to shew any Pity or Compassion to the Offender ; but runs on him like a Lion, takes him by the Throat, and throws him into Prison, and there he is sure to lie, and that to all Eternity, unless infinite Satisfaction be given to it, which is impossible to be given by any of (us) the Sons of *Adam*.

Secondly, The Faithfulness of God calls for irrecoverable Ruin, to be poured out on those that shall live and die under this Covenant. If thou have sinned but one Sin against this Covenant, and shouldest afterwards escape damning, God must be unfaithful to himself, and to his Word,

which

which both agree as one. First, he would be unfaithful to himself; to himself; that is, to his Justice, Holiness, Righteousness, Wisdom and Power, if he should offer to stop the Runnings out of his Justice, for the Damning of them that have offended it. And, Secondly, he would be unfaithful to his Word (his written Word) and deny, disown, and break that, of which he hath said, *Luke xvi. 7. It is easier for Heaven and Earth to pass away, than for one Tittle of the Law to fail*, or be made of none Effect: Now, if he should not, according to his certain Declarations therein, take Vengeance on those that fall and die within the Threat and sad Curses denounced in that, his Word could not be fulfilled.

Thirdly, Because otherwise he would disown the Sayings of his Prophets, and gratify the Sayings of his Enemies; his Prophets say he will take Vengeance, his Enemies say he will not; his Prophets say he will remember their Iniquities, and recompence them into their Bosom; but his Enemies, say they, shall do well, and they *shall have Peace though they walk after the Imagination of their own Heart*, Deut. xxix. 19, 20. and be not so strict as the Word commands, and do not as it saith: But let me tell thee, hadst thou a thousand Souls, and each of them was worth a thousand Worlds, God would set them all on a light Fire, if they fall within the Condemnings of his Word, and thou die without a Jesus, even the right Jesus; *for the Scriptures cannot be broken*. What doest thou think that God, Christ, Prophets, and Scriptures, will all lie for thee, and falsify their Words for thee? It will be but ill venturing thy Soul upon that.

And

And the Reasons for it are these, First, because God is God; and Secondly, because Man is Man.

First, Because God is perfectly Just, and eternally Just; perfectly Holy, and eternally Holy; perfectly Faithful, and eternally Faithful; that is, without any Variableness or Shadow of Turning, but perfectly continueth the same, and can as well cease to be God, as to alter or change the Nature of his God-head. And as he is thus the Perfection of all Perfections, he gave out his Law to be obeyed; but if any offend it, then they fall into the Hands of this his eternal Justice, and so must drink of his irrecoverable Wrath, which is the Execution of the same Justice. I say, this being thus, the Law being broken, Justice takes place, and so Faithfulness followeth, to see that Execution to be done, and also to testify that he is true, and doth denounce his unspeakable, unsupportable, and unchangeable Vengeance on the Party offending.

Secondly, Because thou art not as infinite as God, but a poor created Weed, that is here to-day and gone to-morrow; and not able to answer God in his Essence, Being and Attributes; thou art found to fall under him, for that thy Soul or Body can do nothing that is infinite in such a Way as to satisfy this God, which is an infinite God in all his Attributes.

But to declare unto you the Misery of Man by this Law to purpose, I do beseech you to take Notice of these following Particulars, besides what hath been already spoken. First, I shall shew the Danger of them by Reason of the Law, as they came from *Adam*: Secondly, as they are in their own Persons particularly under it.

1. *First*, As they come from *Adam*, they are in a sad Condition ; because he left them a broken Covenant : Or, take it thus, because they, while they were in him, did with him break that Covenant. Oh ! this was the Treasure that *Adam* left to his Posterity, it was a broken Covenant, insomuch that Death reigned over all his Children, and doth still to this Day, as they come from him, both natural and eternal Death, *Rom. 5*. It may be, Drunkard, Swearer, Liar, Thief, thou dost not think of this.

2. *Secondly*, He did not only leave them a broken Covenant, but also made them (himself) Sinners against it : He made them Sinners, *By one Man's Disobedience many were made Sinners, Rom. v. 19*. And this is worse than the first.

3. *Thirdly*, Not only so, but he deprived them of their Strength, by which at first they were enabled to stand, and left them no more than dead Men. Oh helpless State ! Oh how beggarly and miserable are the Sons of *Adam* !

4. *Fourthly*, Not only so, but also before he left them, he was the Conduit-Pipe thro' which the Devil did convey off his poison'd Spawn and venomous Nature in the Hearts of *Adam's* Sons and Daughters, by which they are at this Day so strongly and violently carried away, that they fly as fast to Hell and the Devil, by reason of Sin, as Chaff before a mighty Wind.

5. *Fifthly*, In a Word, *Adam* led them out of their Paradise, that is one more ; and put out their Eyes, that is another ; and left them to the Leading of the Devil. O sad ! Canst thou hear this, and not have thy Ears to tingle and burn on thy Head ! Canst thou read this, and not feel this, and not feel thy Conscience begin to

to throb and dagg? If so, surely it is because thou art either possessed with the Devil, or be- sides thyself. But I pass this, and come to the second Thing, which is the Cause of their being in a sad Condition, which is by Reason of their being in their particular Persons under it.

First, Therefore they that are under the Law, they are in a sad Condition ; because they are under that which is more ready (through our Infir- mity) to curse than to bless ; they are under that called the Ministration of Condemnation, 2 Cor. 3. that is, they are under that Dispensation, or Administration, whose proper Work is to curse, and condemn, and nothing else.

Secondly, Their Condition is sad, who are un- der the Law ; because they are not only under that Condemnation that doth condemn, but also that which doth wait an Opportunity to con- demn ; the Law doth not wait that it might be gracious, but it doth wait to curse and condemn ; I, it came on purpose to discover Sin, Rom. 5. 20. *The Law entred*, saith the Apostle, *that the Of- fence might abound* ; or appear indeed to be that which God doth hate ; and also to curse for that which hath been committed, as he saith, *Cursed is every one that continueth not in all Things that are written in the Book of the Law to do them*, Gal. iii. ffo.

Thirdly, they are in a sad Condition ; because that Administration they are under, that are un- der the Law, doth always find fault with the Sin- ner's Obedience, as well as his Disobedience, (if it be not done in a right Spirit, which they that are under that Covenant cannot do, by reason of their being destitute of Faith) therefore, I say, it doth

cause doth controul them, saying, This was not well done ; this was done by Halves ; this was not done freely, and that was not done perfectly, and out of Love to God : And hence it is that some Men, notwithstanding they labour to live as holy as ever they can, according to the Law, yet they not live a peaceable Life, but are full of Condemnings, full of Guilt and Torment of Conscience ; finding themselves to fail here, and fall short there, omitted this Good which the Law commands, and doing that Evil which the Law forbids, but never giveth them one good Word for all their Pains.

Fourthly, They that are under the Law are in a sad Condition ; because they are under that Administration that will never be contented with what is done by the Sinner ; if thou be under this Covenant, work as hard as thou can'st, the Law will never say, *Well done* ; never say, *My good Servant* : No, but always it will be driving of thee faster, hastning of thee harder, giving of thee fresh Commands, which thou must do, and upon Pain of Damnation not to be left undone. Nay, it is such a Master that will curse thee, not only for thy Sins, but also because thy good Works were not so well done as they ought to be.

Fifthly, They that are under this Covenant or Law, their State is very sad ; because this Law doth command impossible Things of him that is under it ; and yet doth but Right in it, seeing Man at the first, had in *Adam* Strength to stand, if he would have used it, and the Law was given them (as I said before) when Man was in his full Strength ; and therefore no Unequality, if it commands the same still, seeing God that gave thee Strength, did not take it away. I will

will give you a Similitude for the clearing of it: I set the Case that I give to my Servant ten Pounds with this Charge, lay it out for my best Advantage, that I may have mine own again with Profit: now if my Servant contrary to my Command goeth and spends my Money in a disobedient Way, is it any Unequality in me to demand of my Servant what I gave him at first? Nay, and though he have nothing to pay, I may lawfully cast him into Prison, and keep him there until I have Satisfaction. So here, the Law was delivered to Man, at the first when he was in a Possibility to have fulfilled it; now then, tho' Man may have lost his Strength, yet God is just in commanding the same Work to be done. I, and if they do not do the same things, I say, that are impossible for them to do, it is just with God to damn them, seeing it was they themselves that brought themselves into this Condition; therefore saith the Apostle, *What things soever the Law, or Commands saith, it saith to them that are under the Law; that every Mouth may be stopped, and all the World may become guilty before God*, Rom. 3. 19. and this is thy sad Condition that art under the Law, Gal. iii. 10.

19 But if any should object and say, but the Law doth not command impossible Things of natural Man.

I should answer in this Case as the Apostle did in another, very much like unto it, saying, *They know not what they say, nor whereof they affirm*. For doth not the Law command thee to love the Lord thy God, with all thy Soul, with all thy Strength, with all thy Might? &c. and can the natural Man do this? Jer. 13. 23. *How can those that are accustomed to do Evil, do that which is commanded*

manded in this Particular? Can the Ethiopian change his Skin, or the Leopard his Spots?

Doth the Law command thee to do Good and nothing but Good? and that with all thy Soul, Heart, and Delight (which the Law as a Covenant of Works called for) and can'st thou being carnal do that? But there is no Man that hath Understanding, if he should hear thee say so, but would say, that thou wast either bewitched, or stark-mad.

Sixthly, They that are under the Law, are in a sad Condition; because, that though they follow the Law, or Covenant of Works; I say, though they follow it, it will not lead them to Heaven; no, but contrariwise, it will lead them under the Curse. *It is not possible, saith Paul, that any should be justified by the Law, (or by our following of it) for by that is the Knowledge of Sin, and by it we are condemned for the same, which is far from leading us to Life, being the Ministration of Death, 2 Cor. 3. and again, Israel that followed after the Law of Righteousness, hath not attained to the Law of Righteousness: Wherefore? Because they sought it not by Faith, but by the Law, and by the Works thereof, Rom. ix. 30, 31, 32.*

Seventhly, They that are under the Law are in a sad Condition; because they do not know whether ever they shall have any Wages for their Work or no; they shall have no Assurance of the Pardon of their Sins, neither any Hopes of eternal Life: But poor Hearts as they are, they work for they do not know what, even like a poor Horse that works hard all Day, and at Night hath a dirty Stable for his Pains; so thou mayest work hard all the Days of thy Life, and at the Day of Death, instead of having a glorious Rest in the Kingdom

dom of Heaven, thou may'st, nay, thou shalt have for thy Sins, the Damnation of thy Soul and Body in Hell to all Eternity; for as much as I say before, that the Law, if thou sinnest, it doth not take Notice of any good Work done by thee; but takes its Advantage to destroy and cut off thy Soul for the Sin thou hast committed.

Eighthly, They that are under the Law, are in a sad Condition, because they are under that Administration, upon whose Souls God doth not smile (they dying there) for the Administration that God doth smile upon his Children through, is the Covenant of Grace, they being in Jesus Christ, the Lord of Life and Consolation: But contrariwise to those that are under the Law; for they have his Frowns, his Rebukes, his Threatnings, and with much Severity they must be dealt withal. For *they brake my Covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord*, Heb. viii. 9.

Ninthly, They are in a sad Condition; because they are out of the Faith of Christ: They that are under the Law, have not the Faith of Christ in them; for that Dispensation which they are under, is not the Administration of Faith, *The Law is not of Faith*, saith the Apostle, Gal. 3. 2.

Tenthly, Because they have not received the Spirit; for that is received *by the hearing of Faith*, and not by the Law, nor the Works thereof, Gal. 3. 2.

Eleventhly, In a Word, if thou live and die under that Covenant, Jesus Christ will neither pray for thee, neither let thee have one Drop of Blood to wash away thy Sins; neither shalt thou be so much as one of the least in the Kingdom of Heaven; for all these Privileges come to Souls under another Covenant, as the Apostle

saith

saith, *For such are not under the Law, but under Grace*; that is, such as have a Share in the Benefits of Jesus Christ, or such as are brought from under the first Covenant, into the second; or from under the Law, into the Grace of Christ's Gospel; without which Covenant of Grace, and being found in that, there is no Soul can have the least Hope of eternal Life, no Joy in the Holy Ghost, no Share in Privileges of Saints, because they are tied up from them by the Limits and Bonds of the Covenant of Works: For you must understand, that these two Covenants have their several Bounds and Limitations, for the ruling and keeping in Subjection, or giving of Freedom to the Parties under the said Covenants. Now, they that are under the Law are within the Compass and the Jurisdiction of that; and living and dying under that, they must stand and fall to that, as *Paul* saith, *To his own Master, he shall stand or fall*. The Covenant of Grace doth admit to those that are under it, also Liberty and Freedom, together with commanding of Subjection in the Things contained in it, which I shall speak to further hereafter.

But now, that the former Things may be further made to appear, that is, what the said Condition of all them that are under the Law is; as I have shewn you something of the Nature of the Law, so also shall I shew, that the Law was added and given for that Purpose, that it might be so with those that are out of the Covenant of Grace.

First, God did give the Law, that Sin might abound, *Rom. v. 20.* not that it should take away Sin in any, but to discover the Sin which is

is already begotten, or that may hereafter be begotten, by Lust and Satan ; I say, this is one proper Work of the Law, to make manifest Sin ; it is sent to find Fault with the Sinner, and it doth also watch that it may do so, and it doth take all Advantages, for the Accomplishing of its Work in them that give Ear thereto, or do not give Ear, if it have the Rule over them. I say, it is like a Man that is sent by his Lord to see and pry into the Labours and Works of other Men, taking every Advantage to discover their Infirmitie and Failings, and to chide them ; yea, to throw them out of the Lord's Favour for the same.

Secondly, Another great End why the Lord did add or give the Law, it was that no Man might have any Thing to lay to the Charge of the Lord, for his condemning of them that do transgress against the same. You know that if a Man should be had before an Officer or Judge, and there be condemned, and yet by no Law ; he that condemns him, might be very well reprehended, or reprov'd for passing the Judgment ; yea, the Party himself might have better Ground to plead for his Liberty, than the other to plead for the Condemning of him ; but this shall not be so in the Judgment-Day, but contrariwise ; for then every Man shall be forced to lay his Hand on his Mouth, and hold his Tongue at the Judgment of God, when it is passed upon them ; therefore, saith the Apostle, *What things soever the Law saith, it saith to them that are under the Law* (that is all the Commands, all the Cursings and Threatnings that are spoken by it, are spoken saith he) *that every Mouth may be stopped* : mark, I beseech you, it saith, saith he, *that every Mouth might be stop-*

ped, and that all the *World* might become guilty before God, Rom. iii. 19. So that now in case any in the Judgment Day should object against the Judgment of God, as those in the 35th of *Matthew* do, saying, Lord when we saw thee thus and thus? And why dost thou pals such a sad Sentence of Condemnation upon us? Surely this is Injustice and not Equity: Now for the preventing of this, the Law was given; aye, and that it might prevent thee to Purpose, God gave it betimes, before either thy first Father had sinned, or thou wast born. So that again, if there should be these Objections offered against the Proceedings of the Lord in Justice and Judgment, saying, Lord, Why am I thus condemned? I did not know it was Sin. Now against these two was the Law given, and that betimes, so that both these are answered. If the first come in and say, why am I judged? why am I damned? then will the Law come in, even all the Ten Commandments, with every one of their Cries against thy Soul, the first saying, he hath sinned against me, damn him; the second saying also, he hath transgressed against me, damn him; the third also saying the same, together with the 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. even all of them will discharge themselves against thy Soul, if thou die under the first Covenant, saying, he, or they have transgressed against us, damn them, damn them: And I tell thee also, that these ten great Guns, the Ten Commandments, will with discharging themselves in Justice against thy Soul, so rattle in thy Conscience, that thou wilt in spite of thy Teeth, be immediately put to Silence, and have thy Mouth stopped; and let me tell thee further, that if thou shalt appear before

God, to have the Ten Commandments discharge themselves against thee, thou hadst better be tied to a Tree, and have ten, yea ten thousand of the biggest Pieces of Ordnance in the World, to be shot off against thee; for these could go no further, but only to kill the Body; but they, both Body and Soul, to be tormented in Hell with the Devil to all Eternity.

3. Again, if the second thing should be objected, saying, But Lord, I did not think this had been Sin, or the other had been Sin; for no Body told me so: Then also will the giving of the Law take off that, saying, Nay, but I was given to thy Father *Adam* before he had sinned, or before thou wast born, and have ever since been in thy Soul to convince thee of thy Sins, and to controul thee for doing the Thing that was not right. Did not I secretly tell thee at such a Time, in such a Place, when thou was doing of such a Thing, with such a one, or when thou wast all alone, that this was a Sin, and that God did forbid it, therefore if thou didst commit it, God would be displeased with thee for it? And when thou wast thinking to do such a thing, at such a time, did not I say, forbear, do not so? God will smite thee, and punish thee for it, if thou dost do it? And besides, God did so order it, that you had me in your Houses, in your Bibles, and also you could speak and talk of me; thus pleading the Truth, thou shalt be forced to confess it is so; nay, it shall be so in some sort with the very Gentiles, and barbarous People, that fall far short of that Light we have in these Parts of the World (for saith the Apostle) *The Gentiles which have not the Law, these do by Nature the Things contained in the Law; these having not the Law* (that

(that is, not written as we have, yet they) *are a Law unto themselves, which sheweth the Works of the Law is written in their Hearts*, Rom. ii. 14, 15. that is, they have the Law of Works in them by Nature, and therefore they shall be left without Excuse ; for their own Conscience shall stand up for the Truth of this, where he saith, *Their Conscience also bearing Witness, and their Thoughts the mean while accusing, or else excusing one another*. I but when ? *Why, in the Day when God shall judge the Secrets of Men by Jesus Christ according to my Gospel*, Rom. ii. 15, 16. So this I say is another End, for which the Lord did give the Law, namely, that God might pass a Sentence in Righteousness, without being charged with any Injustice, by those that shall fall under it, in the Judgment.

4. A fourth End, why the Lord did give the Law, it was, because they that die out of Jesus Christ, might not only have their Mouths stopped, but also that their Persons might become guilty before God, (*Rom. iii. 19.*) and indeed this will be the Ground of silencing (as I said before) they finding themselves guilty, their Consciences backing the Truth of the Judgment of God passed upon them, *they shall become guilty*; that is, they shall be fit Vessels for the Wrath of God to be poured out into, being filled with Guilt by reason of Transgressions against the Commandments : Thus therefore shall the Parties under the first Covenant *be fitted for Destruction*, (*Rom. ix. 22.*) even as Wood, or Straw, being well dried, is fitted for the Fire, and the Law was added and given, and speaks to this very End, that Sins might be shewn, Mouths might be stopt from quarrelling : *And that all the World, mark, the World might*

become guilty before God, and so be in Justice for ever and ever overthrown, because of their Sins.

And this will be so, for these Reasons.

First, Because God, hath a Time to magnify his *Justice* and *Holiness*, as well as to shew his *Forbearance* and *Mercy*. We read in *Scripture* that his *Eyes* are too pure to behold *Iniquity*, Hab. i. 13. and then we shall find it true. We read in *Scripture*, that he will *magnify* the *Law*, and make it *honourable*, and then he will do it indeed.

Now because the Lord doth not strike so soon as he is provoked by Sin, therefore poor Souls will not know, nor regard the Justice of God; neither do they consider the Time in which it must be advanced (which will be) when Men drop under the Wrath of God as fast as Hail in a mighty Storm, 2 *Pet.* iii. 9. *Psalms* l. 21, 22. Now therefore look to it all you that count the Long-suffering and Forbearance of God's Slackness; and because for the present he keepeth Silence, therefore to think that he is like unto yourselves. No, no, but know that God hath set his Time for every Purpose of his, and in its Time, it shall be advanced most marvellously, to the everlasting Astonishment and Overthrow of that Soul, that shall be dealt withal by Justice and the Law. O! how will God advance his Justice? O! how will God advance his Holiness? First, by shewing Men that he in Justice cannot, will not regard them, because they have sinned: And, Secondly, in that his Holiness will not give way for such unclean Wretches to abide in his Sight, his Eyes are so pure.

Secondly, Because God will make it appear that he will be as good as his Word to Sinners

Sinners

Sinners must not look to escape always, though they may escape a while, yet they shall not go for all ado unpunished; no, but they shall have their Due to a Farthing, when every Threatning and Curse shall be accomplished, and fulfilled on the Head of the Transgressor. Friend, there is never an idle Word that thou speakest, but God will account with thee for it; there is never a Lye thou tellest, but God will reckon with thee for it; nay, there shall not pass, so much as one Passage in all thy Life-time, but God, the righteous God, will have it in the Trial by his Law (if thou die under it) in the Judgment-day.

But you will say: But who are those that are thus under the Law?

Ans. Those that are under the Law, may be branched out into three Ranks of Men; either, first, such as are grossly prophane, or such as are more refined; which may be two Ways, some in a lower Sort, and some in a more eminent Way.

First, Then they are under the Law as a Covenant of Works who are open, prophane, and ungodly Wretches, such as delight not only in Sin, but also make their Boast of the same, and brag at the Thoughts of committing it: Now as for such as these are, there is a Scripture in the first Epistle of *Paul to Timothy*, 1 Chap. at the 9th and 10th Verses, which is a notable one to this Purpose, *The Law* (saith he) *is not made for a righteous Man* (not as it is a Covenant of Works) *but for the* (unrighteous or) *lawless and disobedient; for the ungodly, and for Sinners, for unholys, and prophane, for Murderers of Fathers, and Murderers of Mothers, for Manslayers, for Whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with Man-*

kind, for Men-stealers, Liars (look to it Liars) for perjured Persons, and (in a Word) if there be any other thing that is not according to sound Doctrine. These are one sort of People that are under the Law, and so under the Curse of the same, whose Due is to drink up the *brim-ful Cup of God's eternal Vengeance*, and therefore I beseech you not to deceive yourselves. For know you not that the *Unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God? Neither Fornicators, nor Idolaters, nor Adulterers, nor Effeminate, nor Abusers of themselves with Mankind, nor Thieves, nor Covetous, nor Drunkards, nor Revilers, nor Extortioners, shall inherit the Kingdom of Heaven*, 1 Cor. vi. 9, 10. Poor Souls, you think that you may have your Sins, your Lusts and Pleasures, and yet you shall do pretty well, and be let to go free in the Judgment-Day: But see what God saith of such in that 9th of *Deuteronomy*, at the 19th and 20th Verses, *Which shall bless themselves in their Heart, saying, I shall have Peace, I shall be saved, I shall do as well as others, in the Day when God shall judge the World by Jesus Christ* (but saith God) *I will not spare them; no, but my Anger and my Jealousy shall smoke against them. How far? even to the executing all the Curses that are written in the Law of God upon them: Nay, saith God, I will be even with them; for I will blot out their Names from under Heaven.* And indeed it must of Necessity be so, because such Souls are Unbelievers in their Sins, and under the Law, which cannot, will not shew any Mercy on them; for it is not the Administration of Mercy and Life, but the Administration of Death and Destruction (as you have it, 2 Cor. the 3 Chap. the 7, 9. Verses) and all those, every one of them, that are open

prophane and scandalous Wretches, as are under it, and have been so ever since they came into the World to this Day ; and they will for certain live and die under the same Dispensation, and then be damned to all Eternity, if they be not converted from that Covenant, into, and under the Covenant of Grace (of which I shall speak in its Place) and yet for all this, how brag and crank are our poor Wantons and wicked ones, in this Day of Forbearance ? As if God would never have a Reckoning with them, as if there was no Law to condemn them, as if there was no Hell-fire to put them into: But Oh ! how will they be deceived ? when they shall see Christ sitting on the Judgment-seat, having laid aside his Priestly and Prophetical Office, and appearing only as a Judge to the Wicked ? When they shall see all the Records of Heaven unfolded and laid open ; when they shall see each Man his Name out of the Book of Life, and in the Book of the Law ; when they shall see God in his Majesty, Christ in his Majesty, the Saints in their Dignity ; but themselves in their Impurity, what will they say then ? whither will they fly then ? where will they leave their Glory ? *Isa. x. 3.* O sad State !

Secondly, They are under the Law also, who do not only so break and disobey the Law, but follow after the Law, as hard as ever they can, seeking Justification thereby ; that is, tho' a Man should abstain from the Sins against the Law, and labour to fulfil the Law, and give up himself to the Law ; yet if he look no further than the Law, he is still under the Law, and for all his Obedience to the Law, the Righteous Law of God, he shall be destroyed by that Law. *Friend,* you must not understand that none but *prophane*

44 *Who they are that are under*

Persons are under the Law : No, but you must understand that a Man may be turned from a vain, loose, open, prophane Conversation, and sinning against the Law, to a holy, righteous, religious Life, and yet be in the same State, under the same Law, and as sure to be damned as the other that are more prophane and loose. And tho' you may say this is very strange, yet I shall both say it, and prove it to be true. Read with Understanding that *Scripture* in *Romans* ix. 30, 31. where the Apostle speaking of the very same Thing, saith, *But Israel which followed after the Law of Righteousness ; mark, that followed after the Law of Righteousness ; they notwithstanding their earnest Pursuit, or hunting after the Law of Righteousness, fell short of the Law of Righteousness.* It signifies thus much to us, That let a Man be ever so earnest, so servent, so restless, so serious, so ready, so apt and willing to follow the Law, and the Righteousness thereof, if he be under that Covenant, he is gone, he is lost, he is deprived of Eternal Life, because he is not under the *Ministration of Life* (if he die there ;) read also that *Scripture*, *Gal. iii. 10.* which saith, *For as many as are of the Works of the Law, are under the Curse ;* mark, they that are of the Works of the Law : Now for to be of the Works of the Law, it is to be of the Works of the Righteousness thereof ; that is, to abstain from Sins against the Law, and to do the Commands thereof, as near as ever they can for their Lives, or with all the Might they have ; and therefore I beseech you to consider it, for Mens being ignorant of this, is the Cause why so many go on, supposing they have a Share in Christ ; because they are reformed and abstain from

from the *Sins* against the *Law*, who, when all comes to all, will be *damned* notwithstanding, because they are not brought out from under the *Covenant of Works*, and put under the *Covenant of Grace*.

Object. But (can you in very deed make these Things manifestly evident from the *Word of God*?) Methinks to reason thus is very strange, that a Man should labour to walk up according to the *Law of God*, as much as ever he can, and yet that Men notwithstanding this, should be still under the Curse. Pray clear it.

Answer. Truly this doth seem very strange, I do know full well, to the natural Man, to him that is yet in his Unbelief: Because he goeth by *beguiled Reason*: But for my Part, I do know it is so, and shall labour also to convince thee of the *Truth* of the *same*.

First then, the *Law* is thus strict and severe, that if a Man do *sin* but once against it, he (I say) is gone for ever by the *Law*, living and dying under that *Covenant*: If you would be satisfied, as touching the Truth of this, do but read the third of the *Galatians*, at the 10th *Verse*, where it saith, *Cursed is every one* (that is, not a Man shall miss by that *Covenant*) *that continueth not in all* (mark in all) *Things that are written in the Book of the Law to do them*: Pray mark, here is a Curse in the first Place; if all Things written in the Book of the *Law* be not done, and that is, continually too, that is, without any Failing, or one Slip, as I said before. Now there is never a one in the World but before they did begin to yield Obedience to the least Command, they in their own Persons did sin against it, by breaking of it: The *Apostle* methinks is

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very notable for the clearing of this in that 3d of the *Romans*, and also in the 5th; in the one he endeavours to prove that all had transgressed in the first *Adam*, as he stood a common Person representing both himself and us in his standing and falling, *Rom. v. 12. Wherefore* (saith he) *as by one Man Sin entered into the World and Death by Sin: and so Death passed upon all Men*; mark that, but why? *for that all have sinned*; that is, for as much as all naturally are guilty of Original Sin, the Sin that was committed by us in *Adam*: So this is one Cause why none can be justified by their Obedience to the Law, because they have in the first Place broken it in their first Parents. But secondly, in case this should be opposed and rejected by quarrellsome Persons, though there be no ground for it, *Paul* hath another Argument to back his Doctrine, saying, *For we have proved* (already) *that both Jews and Gentiles are all under Sin*. First, *As it is written, there is none Righteous, no not one*. Secondly, *They are all gone out of the Way, they are together* (mark, together) *become unprofitable, there is none that doth good, no not one*. Thirdly, *Their Throat is an open Sepulchre, with their Tongues they have used Deceit, the Poison of Asps is under their Lips*. Fourthly, *Their Mouths are full of Cursing and Bitterness*. Fifthly, *Their Feet are swift to shed Blood*. In a Word, *Destruction and Misery are in their Ways*. And the Way of Peace they have not known. Now then, saith he, having proved these Things so clearly, the Conclusion of the whole is this, *That what Things soever the Law saith* (in both shewing of Sin and cursing for the same) *it saith* (A.1) *to them that are under the Law,*
that

the Covenant of Works. 47

that every Mouth be stopped, and all the World may become guilty before God, Rom. iii. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19. So that here I say lieth the Ground of our being justified by the Law, even because in the first Place we have sinned against it; for know this for certain, that if the Law doth take the least Advantage of thee, by thy sinning against it, all that ever thou shalt afterwards hear from it, is nothing but curse, curse, curse him, *For not continuing in all Things that are written in the Book of the Law to do them.*

Secondly, Thou can'st not be saved by the righteous Law of God, the first Covenant, because, that (together with this thy miserable State, by original and actual Sins, before thou didst follow the Law) since thy turning to the Law, thou hast committed several Sins against the Law. (*In many Things we offend all:*) So that now thy Righteousness to the Law, being mixed with sometimes the Lust of Concupiscence, Fornication, Covetousness, Pride, Heart-risings against God, Coldness of Affection towards him, Backwardness to good Duties, speaking idle Words, having Strife in your Hearts, and such like; I say, these Things, being thus, the Righteousness of the Law is become too weak through this our Flesh (*Rom. 8. 3.*) and so notwithstanding all our Obedience to the Law, we are yet through our Weakness under the Curse of the Law; for, as I said before, the Law is so holy, so just, and so good, that it cannot allow that any Failing or Slip should be done by them that look for Life by the same. *Cursed is every one that continueth not in every Thing, Gal. iii. 10.* And this Paul
D 6 knew

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knew full well, which made him throw away all his Righteousness. (But you will say that was his own. *Answer*, But it was even that which while he calls it his own, he also calls it the Righteousness of the Law, See *Phil. iii. 7, 8, 9, 10.*) and to account it but Dung, but as Dirt on his Shoes, and that, that he might be found in Christ, and so be saved by him without the Deeds of the Law, *Rom. iii. 28.*

✱ But Thirdly, Set the Case of Righteousness of the Law, which thou hast, was pure and perfect without the least Flaw or Fault, without the least Mixture of the least sinful Thought; yet this would fall far short of presenting of the Blameless in the Sight of God. And that I prove by these Arguments.

The first Argument is, That that which is not Christ, cannot redeem Souls from the Curse. It cannot compleatly present them before the Lord; now the Law is not Christ; therefore the Moral Law, cannot (by all our Obedience to it) deliver us from the Curse that is due to us, *Acts iv. 2.*

The second Argument is, That that Righteousness that is not the Righteousness of Faith (that is by believing in Jesus Christ) cannot please God. Now the Righteousness of the Law, as a Covenant of Works, is not the Righteousness of Faith; Therefore the Righteousness of the Law, as acted by us, being under that Covenant, cannot please God. The first is proved in *Heb. xi. 6.* *But without Faith it is impossible to please him, mark, it is impossible.* The second thus, *The Law is not of Faith, Gal. iii. 12. Rom. x. 5, 6. compared with Gal. iii. 11. But that no Man is justified in*

the Sight of the Lord by the Law, it is evident; for the Just shall live by Faith, and the Law is not of Faith. But for the better understanding of those that are weak of Apprehension, I shall prove it thus :

First, That Soul that hath eternal Life, he must have it by Right of Purchase or Redemption, *Heb. ix. 22. Eph. i. 7.* Secondly, this Purchase or Redemption, must be through the Blood of Christ. *You have Redemption through his Blood. Without shedding of Blood there is no Remission.* Now the Law is not in a Capacity to die, and so to redeem Sinners by the Purchase of Blood, which Satisfaction Justice calls for (read the same Scriptures, *Heb. ix. 22.*) Justice calls for Satisfaction, because thou hast transgressed, and sinned against it, and that must have Satisfaction ; therefore, all that ever thou canst do cannot bring in Redemption ; though thou followest the Law up to the Nail Head (as I may say) because all this is not shedding of Blood ; for believe it, and know it for certain, that though thou hadst sinned but one Sin, before thou didst turn to the Law ; that one Sin will murder thy Soul, if it be not washed away by Blood, even by the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, that was shed when he did hang upon the Cross on Mount *Calvary.*

Object. But (you will say) methinks, that giving up yourselves to live a righteous Life, should make God like better of us, and let us be saved by Christ, because we are so willing to obey his Law.

Answer. The Motive that moveth God to have Mercy upon Sinners, is not because they are willing

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willing to follow the Law, but because he is willing to save them. *Not for thy Righteousness or for thy Uprightness of Heart dost thou possess the Land,* Deut. ix. 4, 5, 6. Now understand this; if thy Will to do Righteousness was the first moving Cause why God had Mercy on thee thro' Christ, then it must not be freely by Grace. (I say freely) but the Lord loves thee and saves thee upon free Terms, having nothing beforehand to make him accept of thy Soul, but only the Blood of Christ; therefore to allow of such a Principle, it is to allow, that Grace is to be obtained by the Works of the Law, which is so gross Darkness as lies in the darkest Dungeon in Popery, and is also directly opposite to Scripture. *For we are justified freely by his Grace; through the Redemption that is in Christ,* not through the Good that is in ourselves or done by us (*Rom. iii. 24.*) No, *But by Faith, without;* mark that, *without the Deeds of the Law,* Verse 28. Again, *not of Works, lest any Man should boast,* Eph. ii. 9. No, no, (saith he) *Not according to our Works* (or Righteousness) *but according to his own Purpose;* mark, *according to his own Purpose and Grace, which was* (a free Gift) *given us in Christ Jesus* (not lately, but) *before the World began,* 2 Tim. i. 9.

Object. But you will say, then, Why did God give the Law, if we cannot have Salvation by following it?

Ans. I told you before, that the Law was given for these following Reasons,

First, That thou mightest be convinced by it of thy Sins, and that thy Sins might indeed appear very sinful unto thee; which is done by the Law these ways: First, By shewing of thee what

what a holy God he is that gave the Law; and Secondly, By shewing thee thy Vileness and Wickedness, in that thou, contrary to this holy God, hath transgressed against, and broken this his holy Law; therefore saith *Paul*, *The Law was added, that the Offence might abound*, Rom. v. 20. that is, by shewing the Creature the Holiness of God, and also its own Vileness.

Secondly, That thou may'st know, that God will not damn thee for nothing in the Judgment-day.

Thirdly, Because he would have no quarrelling at his just condemning of them at that Day.

Fourthly, Because he will make thee to know that he is a holy God, and pure.

Quest. But seeing you have spoken thus far, I wish you would do so much as to shew in some Particulars, both what Men have done, and how far they have gone, and what they have received, being yet under this Covenant, which you call the Ministration of Condemnation.

Ans. This is something a difficult Question, and had need be not only warily, but also home and soundly answered. The Question consists of three Particulars. First, What Men have done. Secondly, How far Men have gone. Thirdly, What they have received, and yet to be under the Law or Covenant of Works; and so in a State of Condemnation.

As for the first, I have spoken something in general to that already, but for thy better Understanding, I shall speak yet more particularly. First, A Man hath, and may be convinced and troubled for his Sins, and yet be under this Covenant; and that in a very heavy and dreadful Manner; insomuch that he may find the Weight

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Weight of them to be intollerable and too heavy for him to bear, as it was with *Cain*, *Gen. iv. 13.* *My Punishment (saith he) is greater than I can bear.*

Secondly, A Man living thus under a Sense of his Sins, may repent, and be sorry for them, and yet be under this Covenant, and yet be in a damned State, *Matt. xxvii. 3.* *And when he (Judas) saw what was done, he repented.*

Thirdly, Men may not only be convinced, and also repent for their Sins, but they may also desire the Prayers of the Children of God for them too, and yet be under this Covenant and Curse; *Exod. x. 16, 17.* *And Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, I have sinned; intreat the Lord your God that he may take away from me these Plagues.*

Fourthly, A Man may also humble himself for his Offences and Disobedience against his God, and yet be under this Covenant: See *1 Kings xxi. 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29.*

Fifthly, A Man may make Restitution unto Men for the Offences he hath done unto them and yet be under this Covenant.

Sixthly, A Man may do much Work for God in his Generation, and yet be under this first Covenant; as *Jehu*, who did do that which God bid him, *2 Kings ix. 25, 26.* and yet God threatneth even *Jehu*, because, tho' he did do the Thing that the Lord commanded him, yet, he did it not from a right Principle; for had he, the Lord would not have said, *Yet a little while, and I will avenge the Blood of Jezreel upon the House of Jehu*, *Hosea, i. 4.*

Seventhly, Men may hear and fear the Servants of the Lord, and Reverence them very highly;

highly ; yea, and when they hear, they may not only hear, but hear and do, and that gladly too, not one or two Things, but many ; mark, *many Things gladly*, and yet be lost, and yet be damned, (See *Mark vi. 20.*) *For Herod feared John* (why ? not because he had any Civil Power over him, but) *because he was a just Man, and holy, and observed him, and when he heard him, he did many Things gladly.* It may be, that thou thinkest, that because thou hearest such and such, therefore thou art better than thy Neighbours : But know for certain, that thou mayest not only hear, but thou mayest hear and do, and that not with a backward Will, but *gladly* ; mark, *gladly*, and yet be *Herod still*, an Enemy to the Lord Jesus *still*. Consider this I pray you.

2. But Secondly, To the second Thing, which is this, How far may such a one go ? To what may such a one attain ? Whither may he arrive, and yet be an undone Man, under this Covenant ?

Answ. First, Such a one may be received into Fellowship with the Saints, as they are in a visible Way of walking one with another ; they may walk Hand in Hand together, (see *Mat. xxv. 1.* where he saith) *The Kingdom of Heaven* (that is, a visible Company of Professors of Christ) is likened to ten Virgins, which took their Lamps, and went forth to meet the Bridegroom, five of them were wise, and five were foolish. These in the first Place are called Virgins ; that is, such as are clear from the Pollutions of the World : Secondly, they are said to go forth ; that is, from the Rudiments and Traditions of Men : Thirdly, they do agree to take their Lamps with them ; that is, to profess themselves the Servants of Jesus Christ, that

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that wait upon him, and for him; and yet when he came, he found half of them (even them Virgins) that had Lamps, that also went forth from the Pollutions of the World, and the Customs of Men, to be such as lost their precious Souls. (see Verse 10.) which they should not have done, had they not been under the Covenant of Grace, and so, not under the Law.

Secondly, They may attain to a deal of Honour in the said Company of Professors (that which may be accounted Honour) insomuch that they may be put in trust with Church Affairs, and bear the Bag as *Judas* did. I speak not this to shame the Saints, but being beloved I warn them; yet I speak this on purpose, that it might (if the Lord will) knock at the Door of the Souls of Professors; consider *Demas*.

Thirdly, They may attain to speak of the Word as Ministers, and become Preachers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, insomuch that the People where they dwell, may even take up a Proverb concerning them, saying, *Is he among the Prophets?* his Gifts may be so rare, his Tongue may be so fluent, and his Matter may be so fit, that he may speak with a Tongue like an Angel, and speak of the hidden Mysteries, yea, of them *all*; mark that, (1 Cor. xiii. 1, 2, 3, 4.) and yet be nothing, and yet be none of the Lord's anointed ones, without the Spirit of Grace savingly, but may live and die under the Curse of the Law.

Fourthly, They may go yet further; they may have the Gifts of the Spirit of God, which may enable them to cast out Devils, to remove the biggest Hills or Mountains in the World; nay, thou mayest be so gifted, as to prophesy of Things to come, the most glorious Things, even

the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, to reign over all his Enemies, and yet be but a *Balaam*, a wicked and a mad Prophet. See 2 *Pet.* ii. 16. *Numb.* xxiv. 16, to 25.

Fifthly, They may not only stand thus for a while, for a little Season ; but they must stand thus till the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with his holy Angels ; ay, and not be discovered of the Saints till that very Day. Then all these Virgins arose (the Wise and the Foolish) then! when? Why, when this Voice was heard, *Behold the Bridegroom cometh, go you out to meet him*, Matt. xxv. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. and yet was out of the Lord Jesus Christ, and yet was under the Law.

Sixthly, Nay, further, they may not only continue in a Profession till then (supposing themselves to be under the Grace of the Gospel, when indeed they are under the Curse of the Law) but even when the Bridegroom is come, they may still be so confident of their State to be good, that they will even reason out the Case with Christ, why they are not let into the Kingdom of Glory, saying, *Lord, Lord, have we not eaten and drank in thy Presence? and hast thou not taught in our Streets?* Nay further, *Have not we taught in thy Name? and in thy Name cast out Devils?* nay not only thus, but done many; mark, *we have done many wonderful Works*: Nay, further, they were so confident, that they commanded, in a commanding Way, saying, *Lord, open to us*. See here I beseech you, how far these went ; they thought they had had intimate Acquaintance with Jesus Christ ; they thought he could not chuse but save them ; they had eat and drank with him, sat at the Table with him, received Power from him, executed the same Power. In thy Name
have

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have we done thus and thus ; even wrought many wonderful Works, See Mat. vii. 22. Luke iii. 25, 26. And yet these poor Creatures were shut out of the Kingdom. O consider this (I beseech you) before it be too late, lest you say, Lord, let us come in, when Christ saith, Thrust him out, Ver. 28. hears you cry, Lord, open to us, when he saith, Depart, I know you not ; lest tho' you think of having Joy, you have weeping and gnashing of Teeth.

3. But, thirdly, The third Thing touched in the Question was this, What may such a one receive of God, who is under the Curse of the Law ?

First, They may receive an Answer to their Prayers from God at some times, for some Things that they stand in need of. I find in Scripture, that God did hear these Persons that the Apostle saith was cast out. See *Gen. xxi. 17. And God heard the Voice of the Lad* (even of cast-out *Ishmael.*) *And the Angel of the Lord called to Hagar* (which was the Bond-woman, and under the Law, *Gal. iv. 30.*) *out of Heaven, and said unto her, Fear not ; for God hath heard the Voice of the Lad where he is.* Friends, it may be you may think, because you have your Prayers answered in some particular Things, therefore you may suppose, that as to your eternal State, your Condition is very good : But you must know, that God doth hear the Cry of a Company of *Ishmaelites*, the Sons of the Bond-woman, who are under the Law as a Covenant of Works. I do not say he hears them as to their eternal State, but he heareth them as to several Streights that they go through in this Life, aye, and gives them Ease and Liberty from their Trouble. Here this poor
Wretch

Wretch was almost perished for a little Water, and he cried, and God heard him, yea, he heard him out of Heaven. Read also the cviith *Psal.*, 23d to 29th Verses. *Psal.* cvi. 15. *He gave them their Desire, and sent Leanness to their Souls.*

But some may say, Methinks this is yet more strange, that God should hear the Prayers, the Cries of those that are under the Law, and answered them.

Answ. I told you before, he doth not hear them as to their Eternal State, but as to their Temporal State; for God as their Creator hath a Care of them, and causeth the Sun to shine upon them, and the Rain to distil upon their Substance, *Mat.* v. 45. Nay, he doth give the Beasts in the Field their appointed Food, and doth hear the young Ravens when they cry, *Psal.* cxlvii. 9. which are far inferior to Man. I say therefore, that God doth hear the Cries of his Creatures, and doth answer them too, tho' not as to their eternal State; but may damn them nevertheless when they die, for all that.

Secondly, They may receive Promises from the Mouth of the Lord. There are many that have had Promises made to them by the Lord, in a most eminent Manner, and yet (as I said before) are such as are cast out and called the Children of the Bond-woman (which is the Law) see *Gen.* xxi. 17, 18. *And the Angel of the Lord called out of Heaven to Hagar* (that was the Bond-woman) *saying, Fear not; for God hath heard the Voice of the Lad where he is. Arise, lift up thy Lad, and hold him in thine Hand; FOR I WILL MAKE OF HIM;* mark there is the Promise. *For I will make of him* (of the Son of the Bond-woman) *a great Nation.*

Thirdly,

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Thirdly, Nay, they may go further ; for they may receive another Heart than they had before, and yet be under the Law. There is no Man, I think, but those that do not know what they say, that will think or say, that *Saul* was under the Covenant of Grace, yet after he had talked with *Samuel*, and had turned his Back to go from him, saith the Scripture, *God gave him another Heart*, 1 Sam. x. 9. *another Heart*, mark that, and yet an out-cast, a rejected Person, 1 Sam. xv. 26, 29. Friends, I beseech you, let not these Things offend you, but let them rather beget in your Hearts an Enquiring into the Truth of your Condition, and be willing to be searched to the Bottom ; and also that every Thing which hath not been planted by the Lord's Right Hand, may be rejected, and that there may be a Reaching after better Things, even the Things that will not only make thy Soul think thy State is good now, but that thou mayest be able to look Sin, Death, Hell, the Curse of the Law, together with the Judge, in the Face with Comfort, having such a real, sound, effectual Work of God's Grace in thy Soul, that when thou hearest the Trumpet sound, seest the Graves fly open, and the Dead come creeping forth out of their Holes ; when thou shalt see the Judgment set, the Books opened, and all the World standing before the Judgment-seat ; I say, that then thou mayest stand, and have that blessed Sentence spoken to thy Soul, *Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from before the Foundation of the World*, Matt. xxv. 34.

22 *Object.* But you will say, for all this, we cannot believe that we are under the Law ; for these Reasons : As, first, because we have found a Change

Change in our Hearts. Secondly, because we do deny that the Covenant of Works will save any. Thirdly, Because for our Parts, we judge ourselves far from legal Principles; for we are got up into as perfect a Gospel Order, as to Matter of Practice and Discipline in Church Affairs, as any this Day in *England*, as we judge.

Ans. First, That Man's Belief that is grounded upon any thing done in him, or by him only, that Man's Belief is not grounded upon the Death, Burial, Resurrection, Ascension, and Intercession of Jesus Christ; for that Man that hath indeed good Ground of his eternal Salvation, his Faith is settled upon that Object which God is well pleas'd or satisfy'd withal, which is that Man which was born of *Mary*, even her *first-born Son*; that is, he doth apply by Faith to his Soul, the Virtues of his Death, Blood, Righteousness, &c. and doth look for Satisfaction of Soul no where else, than from that, neither doth the Soul seek to give God any Satisfaction, as to Justification any other ways; but doth willingly and chearfully accept of, and embrace the Virtues of Christ's Death, together with the rest of his Things, done by himself on the Cross as a Sacrifice, and since also as a Priest, Advocate, Mediator, &c. And doth so really and effectually receive the Glories of the same, *That thereby, mark that, thereby he is changed into the same Image from Glory to Glory*, 2 Cor. iii. 18. Thus in general, but yet more in particular.

First, To think that your Condition is good, because there is some change in you from a loose profane Life, to a more close, honest, and civil Life and Conversation; I say, to think this Testimony sufficient for to ground the Stress of thy Salva-

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Salvation upon, is very dangerous. First, Because such a Soul doth not only lay the Strefs of its Salvation besides the Man Christ Jesus that died upon the Crofs : But, secondly, because that his Confidence is not grounded upon the Saviour of Sinners ; but upon his turning from gross Sins, to more refined Life (and it may be to the Performance of some good Duties) which is no Saviour. I say, this is very dangerous ; therefore read it and the Lord help you to understand it ; for unless you lay the whole Strefs of the Salvation of your Souls upon the Merits of another Man (namely Jesus ;) and that by what he did do, and is a doing without you ; for certain, as sure as God is in Heaven, your Souls will perish : And this must not be notionally neither, as with assenting of the Understanding only ; but it must be by the wonderful, invisible, invincible Power of the Almighty God, working in your Souls by his Spirit, such a real, saving, holy Faith, that can, through the Operation of the same Spirit by which it is wrought, lay hold on, and apply the most heavenly, most excellent, most meritorious Benefits of the Man Christ Jesus, not only to your Heads and Fancies, but to your very Souls and Consciences, so effectually, that you may be able by the same Faith to challenge the Power, Mad-ness, Malice, Rage, and destroying Nature, either of Sin, the Law, Death, the Devil, together with Hell, and all other Evils, throwing your Souls upon the Death, Burial, Resurrection, and Intercession of that Man Jesus without, *Rom. viii. 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39.*

But, Secondly, Do you think that there was no change in the five foolish Virgins, spoken of in

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Matt. xxv. 1, 2, 3. yea, there was such a Change in them very People, that the five wise Ones could give them Admittance of walking with them, in the most pure Ways and Institutions of the Gospel of Christ ; and yet but foolish ; nay, they walked with them, or shall walk with them, until the Lord Jesus Christ shall break down from Heaven ; and yet but foolish Virgins, and yet but under the Law ; and so under the Curse, as I said before.

Object. But (say you) we have disowned the Covenant of Works, and turned from that also?

Ans. This is sooner said than done : Alas, alas ! poor Souls think because they can say, *Grace, Grace,* it is freely by Grace ; therefore they are under the Covenant of Grace. A very wide Mistake ; you must understand thus much, that tho' you be such as can speak of the Grace of the Gospel, yet if you yourselves be not brought under the very Covenant of Grace, you are yet notwithstanding your Talk and Profession, very far wide of a *Sense* and of a *Share* in the Covenant of the Grace of God, held forth in the Gospel.

The *Jews* were of a clearer Understanding many of them, than to conclude that the Law, and only the Law, was the Way to Salvation ; for they, even they, that received not the Christ of God, did expect a Saviour should come, *John vii. 27, 41, 42, 43.* But they were Men that had not the Gospel Spirit, which alone is able to lead them to the very Life, Marrow, or Substance of the Gospel in right Terms ; and so being muddy in their Understandings, being between the Thoughts of a Saviour, and the Thoughts of the Works of the Law, thinking

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that

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that they must be accomplished for the obtaining of a Saviour, and his Mercy towards them; I say, between these, they fell short of a Saviour. As many poor Souls in these Days, they think they must be saved alone by the Saviour: Yet they think there is something to be done on their Parts, for the obtaining the good Will of the Saviour, as their Humiliation for Sin, their turning from the same, their Promises and Vows, and Resolutions to become a new Man, join in the Church-fellowship, and what not; and thus they bringing this along with them, as a Means to help them, they fall short of eternal Salvation, if they convert not, see that Scripture, *Rom. ix. 30, 31, 32.* The Apostle saith there, that they that sought not did obtain, when they that did seek fell short. *What shall we say then,* saith he, *that the Gentiles which sought not after Righteousness, have attained to Righteousness (yea) even the Righteousness of Faith;* and what else? Why, *But Israel which followed after the Law of Righteousness, have not attained to the Law of Righteousness;* how came that to pass? *because* (saith he) *they sought it not by Faith, but as it were,* mark, he doth say not *altogether*: No, *but as it were,* that is, because as they sought, they did a little by the by lean upon the Works of the Law. And let me tell you, that this is such a hard thing to beat Men off of, that though *Paul* himself did take the Work in Hand, he did find enough to do, touching it: How is he fain to labour in the ten first Chapters of his Epistle to the *Romans*, for the establishing of those that did even profess largely in the Doctrine of Grace? And also in that Epistle to the *Galatians*, and yet lost many, do what he could. Now the Reason why

the Doctrine of Grace doth so hardly down (even with Professors) in Truth, effectually ; it is because there is a Principle naturally in Man, that doth argue against the same, and that thus : Why? saith the Soul, I am a *Sinner*, and God is *Righteous, Holy, and Just* ; his only Law therefore having been broken by *me*, I must by all means, if ever I look to be saved, in the first Place, be sorry for my Sins. Secondly, Turn from the same. Thirdly, Follow after good Duties, and practise the good Things of the Law, and Ordinances of the Gospel, and so hope that God for Christ's sake may forgive all my Sins ; which is not the Way to God, as a Father in Christ, but the Way, the very Way to come to God by the Covenant of Works or the Law, which Things I shall more fully clear, when I speak to the second Doctrine.

And therefore, those that this Day profess the Gospel, for the generality of them, they are such that notwithstanding their Profession, they are very ignorant of that glorious Influence and Lustre of the same ; I say, they are ignorant of the Virtue and Efficacy of the glorious Things of Christ held forth by and in the Gospel, *2 Cor.* iv. 3. which doth argue their not being under the Covenant of Grace, but rather under the Law or old Covenant. As for Instance, If you do come among some Professors of the Gospel, in general, you shall have them pretty busy, and ripe ; else able to hold you in a very large Discourse in several Points of the same glorious Gospel ; but if you come to the same People, and ask them concerning Heart-work, or what Work the Gospel hath wrought on them, and what Appearance they have had of the sweet In-

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fluences and Virtues on their Souls and Consciences, it may be they may give you such an Answer as this; I do find by the Preaching thereof, that I am changed, and turned from my *Sins* in a good

** But only* Measure, and also have learned ** to distinguish* between the Law and the Gospel, so that for the one, that is, for the Gospel, I can plead, and also can shew the Weakness and Unprofitableness of the other; And thus far it is like they may go, which is not far enough to prove them under the Covenant of Grace, tho' they may have their Tongues so largely tipt with the *Profession* of the same, See 2 *Pet.* ii. 20. where he saith, *For if after they have escaped the Pollutions of the World, thro' the Knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (which was not a saving Knowledge) they are again entangled therein and overcome, the latter End of that Man is worse than his Beginning.* See *Mat.* xxv. 1, 2, 3, 4, &c. and also *Mat.* vii. 22.

Object. But (you will say) is not this a fair declaring of the Work of Grace, or doth it not discover that without all gain saying, we are under the Covenant of Grace, when we are able not only to speak of the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ, but also to tell, and that by Experience, that we have been changed from worse to better, from Sin to a Holy Life, by leaving of the same, and that by hearing of the Word preached?

Ans. A Man may in the first Place be able to talk of all the *Mysteries* of the Gospel, and that like an *Angel* of God, and yet be no more in God's Account, than the *sounding* of a *Drum*, *Brass*, or the tinkling of a *Cimbal*, which are Things, that notwithstanding their Sound and great Noise, are absolutely void of Life and Motion, and so

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are accounted with God as nothing; that is, no *Christians*, no *Believers*, not under the *Covenant of Grace* for all that. See *1 Cor. xiii. 12, 3, 4.*

Secondly, Men may not only do this, but may also be changed in reality for a Season, from what they formerly were, and yet be nothing at all in the Lord's Account as to an eternal Blessing. Read (*2 Pet. ii. 20.*) the Scripture which I mentioned before; for indeed that one Scripture is enough to prove all that I desire to say, as to this very thing; for if you observe, there is enfolded therein, these following things; first, that Reprobates may attain to a Knowledge of Christ. Secondly, This Knowledge may be of such Weight and Force, that for the present it may make them escape the Pollutions of the World, and this by hearing the Gospel. *For if after they have escaped the Pollutions of the World, through the Knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the last End of that Man is worse than his Beginning.* Now they that are Reprobates,

* *Dogs or Sows.* Read further, *But (saith he) it is happened to them according to the true Proverb; the Dog is turned to his own Vomit again, and the Sow, that was washed, to her wallowing in the Mire,* Ver. 21, 22.

* *Some Professors take them at the best they are but like Dogs, spewing out their Filth for a time.*

* *But (say you) our Practices in the Worship of God shall testify for us, that we are not under the Law; for we have by God's Goodness attained to as exact a Way of walking in the Ordinances of God, and as near the Examples of the Apostles, as ever any Churches since the Primitive Time, as we judge.*

* *The last Part of the Objection.*

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Anfw. What then? Do you think that the walking in the Order of the Churches of old, as to Matter of outward Worship, is sufficient to clear you of your Sins at the Judgment Day? Or do you think that God will be contented with a little bodily Subjection to that which shall vanish, and fade like a Flower, *when the Lord shall come from Heaven in flaming Fire, with his mighty Angels,* 2 Thes. i. 7, 8. Alas, alas, how will such Professors as these are, fall before the Judgment-Seat of Christ? then such a Question as this, *Friend, how camest thou in hither, not having on thy Wedding-garment?* will make them be Speechless, and fall down into everlasting Burnings, thousands on a Heap; for you must know, that it is not then your crying, Lord, Lord, that will stand you in stead, nor your saying, We have eat and drank in thy Presence, that will keep you from standing on the Left Hand of Christ.

It is the Principle as well as the Practice, that shall be enquired into at that Day.

Quest. The Principle (you will say) what do you mean by that?

Anfw. My Meaning is, the Lord Jesus Christ will then enquire and examine, whither the Spirit from which you acted, was Legal, or Evangelical; that is, Whether it was the Spirit of Adoption, that did draw you out to the Thing you took in hand, or a meer moral Principle, together with some shallow and common Illuminations into the outward Way of the Worship of God, according to Gospel Rule.

Quest. But (you will say it is like) how should this be made manifest, and appear?

Anfw. I shall speak briefly in answer hereunto,

to, as followeth. First then, that Man that doth take up any of the Ordinances of God, namely, as Prayer, Baptism, Breaking of Bread, Reading, Hearing, Alms-deeds, or the like; I say, he that doth practise any of these, or such like, supposing thereby to procure the Love of Christ to his own Soul, he doth do what he doth from a Legal, and not from an Evangelical, or Gospel Spirit; as thus; for a Man to suppose that God will hear him for his Prayers sake, for his Alms sake, for his Humiliation sake, or because he hath promised to make God amends hereafter, whereas there is no such thing as a Satisfaction to be made to God by our Prayers, or whatever we can do; I say, there is no such way to have Reconciliation with God in. And so also, for Men to think, because they are got into such and such an Ordinance, and have crowded themselves into such and such a *Society*, that therefore they have got pretty good Shelter from the Wrath of the Almighty; when alas, poor Souls, there is no such thing: No, but God will so set his Face against such Professors, that his very Looks will make them to tear their very Flesh; yea, make them to wish, would they had the biggest Mill-stone in the World hanged about their Neck, and they cast into the Midst of the Sea. For Friends, let me tell you, tho' you can now content your selves, without the only, harmless, undefiled, perfect Righteousness of Christ; yet there is a Day a coming, in which there is not one of you shall be saved; but those that are and shall be found cloathed with that Righteousness: God will say to *ALL* the rest, *Take them, bind them Hand and Foot, and cast them into outer Darknes; there shall be weeping,*

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and gnashing of Teeth, Mat. xxii. 13. for Christ will not say unto Men in that Day, come, which of you made a *Profession* of me, and walked in *Church-fellowship* with my Saints? No, but then it shall be enquired into, who have the reality of the Truth of Grace wrought in their *Hearts*: And for certain, he that misseth of that, shall surely be cast into the Lake of Fire, there to burn with the Devils and damned Men and Women; there to undergo the Wrath of an eternal God, and that not for a Day, a Month, a Year; but for ever, for ever, for ever, and ever; there is that which cutteth to the Quick: Therefore look to it, and consider now what you do, and whereon you hang your Souls; for it is not every Pin that will hold in Judgment, not every Foundation that will be able to hold up the House against those mighty, terrible, Soul-drowning Floods, and destroying Tempests, which then will roar against the Soul and Body of a Sinner (*Luke vi.* the three last Verses) and if the Principle be rotten, all will fall, all will come to nothing. Now the Principle is this, not to do Things because we would be saved, but to do them from this, namely, because we do really believe that we are and shall be saved; but do not mistake me, I do not say we should slight any holy Duties (*God forbid*) but I do say, he that doth look for Life, because he doth do good Duties, he is under the Covenant of the Works of the Law, let his Duties be ever so eminent, so often, so fervent, so zealous. Aye, and I say, as I said before, that if an Man or Men, or Multitudes of People, do get into ever so high, so eminent, and clear Practices, and Gospel-Order, as to Church-Discipline, if it be done to this End I have been

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speaking from this Principle, they must and shall have these sad Things fall to their Share, which I have made mention of.

Object. But (you will say) can a Man use Gospel-Ordinances with a Legal Spirit?

Ans. Yes, as easily as the Jews could use and practise Circumcision, though not the Moral or Ten Commandments. For this I shall be bold to affirm, that it is not the Commands of the New Testament Administration, that can keep a Man from using of himself in a Legal Spirit; for know this for certain, that it is the Principle, not the Command, that makes the subjecter to the same, either Legal or Evangelical, and so his Obedience from that Command to be from Legal Convictions, or Evangelical Principles.

Now herein the Devil is wondrous subtle and crafty, in suffering People to practise the Ordinances and Commands of the Gospel, if they do

but do them in a Legal Spirit, * from a Spirit of Works; for he knows then, that if he can but get the Soul to go on in such a Spirit, though they do ever so many Duties, he shall hold

** I beseech you, do not think that because I say this, therefore I am against the Ordinances of the Gospel; for I do honour them in their Places: Yet would not that any of them should be idolized, or done in a wrong Spirit.*

them sure enough; for he knows full well, that thereby they do set up something in the Room of, or at the least to have some (though but a little) Share with the Lord Jesus Christ in their Salvation; and if he can but get thee here, he knows that he shall cause thee by thy depending a little upon the one, and so thy whole De-

pendance being not upon the other (that is, Christ, and taking of him upon his own Terms) thou wilt fall short of Life by Christ, tho' thou do very much busy thyself in a suitable walking, in an outward Conformity to the several Commands of the Lord Jesus Christ. And let me tell you plainly, that I do verily believe, that as Satan by his Instruments did draw many of the *Galatians* by Circision (tho', I say it was none of the Commands of the Moral Law) to be Debtors to do upon pain of eternal Damnation, the Whole of the Moral Law: So also Satan in the Time of the Gospel, doth use even the Commands laid down in the Gospel (some of them) to bind the Soul over to do the same Law; the Thing being done and walked in, by, and in the same Spirit: For, as I said before, it is not the Obedience to the Command, that makes the subjecter thereto Evangelical, or of a *Gospel Spirit*: But contrariwise, the Principle that leads out the Soul to the doing of the Command, that makes the Persons that do thus practice any Command, together with the Command by them practiced, either Legal or Evangelical.

As for Instance, Prayer, it is a *Gospel Command*; yet, if he that prays, doth it in a Legal Spirit, he doth make that which in itself is a *Gospel Command*, an Occasion of leading him into a Covenant of Works, in as much as he doth it by, and in that Old Covenant Spirit.

Again, Giving of *Alms*, is a *Gospel Command*, yet if I do give Alms from a Legal Principle, the Command to me is not *Gospel* but *Legal*, and it binds me over (as aforesaid) to do the Whole Law, *For he is not a Jew* (not a Christian) *that is one outwardly*; that is one, only by an outward Subjection

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Subjection to the Ordinances of Prayer, hearing, reading, baptizing, breaking of Bread, &c. *But he is a Jew, (a Christian) which is one inwardly, who is rightly principled, and practiseth the Ordinances of the Lord from the Leadings forth of the Spirit of the Lord, from a true and saving Faith in the Lord, Rom. ii. 21, 29.*

Those Men spoken of in the 7th of *Matthew*, for certain, for all their great Declaration, did not do what they did from a *right Gospel Spirit*; for had they, no Question but the Lord would have said, *Well done, good and faithful Servants*: But in that the Lord Jesus doth turn them away into Hell, notwithstanding their great Profession of the Lord, and of their doing in his Name, it is evident, that notwithstanding all that they did do, they were still under the Law, and not under that Covenant as true *Believers* are (to wit) the *Covenant of Grace*, and if so, then all their Duties that they did, of which they boasted before the Lord, was not in, and by a right *Evangelical Principle or Spirit*.

Again, saith the Apostle, *Whatsoever is not of Faith, is Sin*, Rom. xiv. 23. but there are some that do even practise Baptism, breaking of Bread, together with other Ordinances, and yet are Unbelievers; therefore Unbelievers doing these things, they are not done in Faith, but Sin: Now to do these Things in Sin, or without Faith, it is not to do Things in an Evangelical or Gospel Spirit; also they that do these Things in a Legal Spirit; the very practising of them, renders them not under the Law of Christ, as Head of his Church; but the Works they do are of so much Contradiction to the Gospel of God, or the *Covenant of Grace*, that they that do them thus,

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do even set upon against the *Covenant of Grace*; and the very Performance of them is of such *Force*, that it is sufficient to *drown* them that are *subject* thereunto, even under the *Covenant of Works*, but these *poor Souls* are not aware of it, and there is their *Misery*.

Quest. But have you no other way to discover the *things* of the *Gospel*, how they are done with a *Legal Principle*, but those you have already made mention of?

Ans. That thou mightest be indeed satisfied herein, I shall shew you the very *Manner* and *Way* that a *Legal* or *Old Covenant* converted Professor (bear with the *Terms*) doth take both in the Beginning, Middle, and the End of his doing of any *Duty* or *Command*, or whatsoever it be that he can do.

First, He thinking this or that to be his *Duty*, and considering of the *same*, he is also presently *persuaded* in his own *Conscience*, that *God* will not accept of him, if he leave it undone; he seeing that he is short of his *Duty* (as he supposeth) while this is undone by him, and also judging that *God* is angry with him, until the thing be done; he in the *second Place* sets to the doing of his *Duty*, to the End he may be able to pacify his *Conscience* by the doing of the *same*, persuading of himself that now the *Lord* is pleased with him for doing it. Thirdly, Having done it, he contents himself, sits down at his *Ease*, until some further *Convictions* of his *Duty* is to be done, which when he seeth and knoweth, he doth do it as aforesaid, from the *same Principle* as he did the former, and so goeth on in his *Progress* of *Profession*. This is to do Things from a *Legal Principle*, and from an *O'd Covenant Spirit*; for thus runs that
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that are under this Covenant. 73

Covenant, *The Man that doth these things shall live in them, or by them*, Lev. xviii. 5. Ezek. xx. 18. Gal. iii. 12. Rom. x. 5. but more of this in the Use of this *Doctrine*.

Object. But (you will say) by these *Words* of yours, you do seem to deny that there *conditional Promises* in the *Gospel*, as is clear, in that you strike at such *Practices* as are *conditional*, and commanded to be done upon the same.

Ans. The thing that I strike at is this ; that a Man in, or, with a *Legal Spirit*, should not, nay, cannot do any *conditional Command* of the *Gospel* acceptable, as to his *Eternal State*, because he doth it in an *Old Covenant Spirit*. *No Man putteth new Wine into old Bottles* : But new Wine must have new Bottles, a *Gospel Command* must have a *Gospel Spirit*, or else the *Wine* will break the Bottles, or the *Principle* will break the *Command*.

Object. Then you do grant that there are *conditional Promises* in the *New Testament*, as in the *Moral Law*, or *Ten Commands*.

Ans. Though this be true ; yet the *conditional Promises* in the *New Testament*, do not call to the same *People* in the same *State* or *Unregeneracy* to fulfil them upon the same *Conditions*.

The *Law* and the *Gospel* being two distinct *Covenants*, they are made in divers *Ways*, and the *Nature* of the *Conditions* also being not the same, as saith the *Apostle*, *The Righteousness of the Law saith one Thing, and the Righteousness of Faith saith another*, Rom. x. 4, 5, 6. that is, the great *Condition* in the *Law*, is, *If you do these Things you shall live by them* : But the *Condition*, even the greatest *Condition*, laid down for a *poor Soul* to do, as to *Salvation* (for it is that

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that we speak of) is to believe that my Sins be forgiven me for Jesus Christ's Sake, without the Works or Righteousness of the Law, on my Part to help forward, *Rom. iv. 5. To him that worketh not* (saith the Apostle) (for Salvation) *but believeth on him that justifieth the Ungodly, his Faith; mark, his Faith is counted for Righteousness: So that we* (saith he) *conclude that a Man is justified by Faith, without; mark again, without the Deeds of the Law, Rom. iii. 28.*

But again, There is never a Condition in the Gospel that can be fulfilled by an Unbeliever; and therefore, whether there be Conditions, or whether there be none, it makes no Matter to thee, who art without the Faith of Christ; for it is impossible for thee in that State to do them, so as to be ever the better, as to thy *eternal State*; therefore lest thou shouldst split thy Soul upon the Conditions laid down in the Gospel, as thou wilt do, if thou go about to do them only with a *legal Spirit*: But I say, to prevent this, see if thou canst fulfil the first Condition; that is, to believe that all thy Sins are forgiven thee; not for any Condition that hath been, or can be done by thee, but meerly for the Man's Sake, that did hang on Mount Calvary, between two Thieves, some sixteen hundred Years ago and odd: And I say, see if thou canst believe that at that Time he did (when he hanged on the Cross) give full Satisfaction for all thy Sins, before thou in thy Person hadst committed ever a one. I say, see if thou canst believe this, and take Heed thou deceive not thy self with an Historical, Notional, or Traditional Acknowledgment of the same. And, Secondly, See if thou canst so well fulfil this Condition, that the very Virtue

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and *Efficacy* that it hath on thy *Soul*, will engage thee to fulfil those other *Conditions*, really in love to that *Man*, whom thou shouldest believe, hath frankly, and freely forgiven thee all, without any *Condition* acted by thee, to move him thereto, according to that Saying in 2 *Cor.* v. 14, 15. and then thy doing will arise from a contrary *Principle*, than otherwise it will do; that is, then thou wilt not act and do, because thou wouldest be accepted of *God*; but because thou hast some good Hope in thy Heart, that thou art accepted of him already, and not on thine, but wholly and alone upon another *Man's Account*; for here runs the Gospel Spirit of *Faith*; mark, we believe, and therefore speak, So we believe and therefore do. 2 *Cor.* iv. 13. *Take heed therefore that you do not, that you may believe; but rather believe so effectually, that you may do, even all that Jesus doth require of you from a right Principle, even out of love to your dear Lord Jesus Christ, which thing I shall speak to more fully by and by.*

Object. But what do you mean by those Expressions, *Do not do that you may believe, but believe so effectually that you may do.*

Answer. When I say, *Do not do that you may believe*; I mean, do not think that any of the Things that thou canst do, will procure, or purchase *Faith* from *God* unto thy *Soul*; for that is still the *Old Covenant Spirit*, the *Spirit* of the *Law*, to think to have it for thy doing. They that are saved, they are saved by *Grace*, through *Faith*, and that not of themselves; not of any Thing that they can do, for they are both the free Gift of *God*, *Eph.* ii. 8. *Not of (doing, or of Works lest any Man should (be proud, and) boast,*
Verse

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Verse 9. Now some People be so ignorant, as to think that *God* will give them *Christ*, and so all the Merits of his Death, if they will be but vigilant, and do something to please God, that they may obtain him at his Hands; but let me tell them, they may lose a thousand Souls quickly, if they had so many, by going this Way to work, and yet be never the better; for the Lord doth not give his *Christ* to any upon such Conditions, but he doth give him freely; that is, without having respect to any thing that is in thee, Rev. xxii. 17. *Isa.* lv. 1, 2. *To him that is a thirst will I give*; he doth not say, I will sell, but *I will give him the Water of Life freely*, Rev. xxi. 6.

Now if *Christ* doth give it, and that freely, then he doth not sell it for any thing that is in the Creature, but *Christ* doth give himself, as also doth his Father, and that freely; not because there is any Thing in us, or done by us, that moves him thereunto. If it were by doing, then saith *Paul*, *Grace is not Grace*, seeing it is obtained by Works; but *Grace is Grace*, and that is the Reason it is given to Men without their Works, *Rom.* xi. 6. *And if it be by Grace*, that is, if it be a free Gift from God, without any thing foreseen, as done, or to be done by the Creature, then it is not of Works, which is clear: Therefore it is *Grace* without the Works of the Law; but if you say nay, it is of something in the Man, done by him that moves God thereunto; then you must conclude, that either *Grace is no Grace*, or else that *Works are Grace*, and not Works. Do but read with Understanding, *Rom.* xi. 6.

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Now before I go any further, it may be necessary to speak a Word or two to some *poor Souls* that are willing to close in with Jesus Christ, and would willingly take him upon his own Terms, only they being muddy in their Minds, and have not yet attained the Understanding of the Terms and Conditions of the two *Covenants*, they are kept off from closing with Christ ; and all is, because they see they can do nothing. As for Example, come to some *Souls* and ask them how they do, they will tell you presently, that they are so bad that it is not to be expressed : If you bid them believe in *Jesus Christ*, they will answer, that they cannot believe ; if you ask them why they cannot believe, they will answer, because their Hearts are so hard, so dead, so dull, so backward to good Duties ; and if their Hearts were but better, if they were more earnest, if they could pray better, and keep their Hearts more from running after Sin, then they could believe ; but should they believe with such vile Hearts, and presume to believe in Christ, and be so filthy : Now all this is, because the *Spirit* of the *Law* still ruleth in such a Soul, and blinds them so that they cannot see the Terms of the Gospel. To clear this, take the Substance of the drift of this poor Soul, which is this : If was better, then I think I could believe, but being so bad as I am, that is the Reason that I cannot ; this is just to do something that I may believe, to work that I may have Christ, to do the Law that I may have the Gospel ; or thus, to be Righteous that I may come to Christ. O Man ! Thou must go quite back again, thou must believe, because thou canst not pray, because thou canst not do ; thou must believe, because

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cause there is nothing in thee (naturally) that is good, or desireth after good, or else thou wilt never come to Christ as a Sinner; and if so, then Christ will not receive thee; and if so, then thou mayest see, that to keep off from Christ, because thou canst not do, is to keep from Christ by the Law, and to stand off from him, because thou canst not buy him. Thus having spoken something by the Way, for the Direction of those Souls that would come to Christ, I shall return to the former Discourse, wherein ariseth this Objection.

Object. But you did but even now put Souls upon fulfilling the first Condition of the Gospel, even to believe in Christ, and so be saved; but now you say, it is alone by Grace, without Condition; and therefore by these Words, there is first, a Contradiction to your former Sayings, and also that Men may be saved without the Condition of Faith, which to me seems a very strange thing. I desire therefore that you would clear out what you have said, as to my Satisfaction.

Answer. Though there be a Condition commanded in the Gospel, yet he that commands the Condition, doth not leave his Children to their own natural Abilities, that in their own Strength they should fulfil them (as the Law doth) but the same God thus doth command that the Condition be fulfilled, even he, doth help his Children by his Holy Spirit, to fulfil the same Condition; For it is God that worketh in you, mark, in you (Believers) both to will and to do, of his own good Pleasure, Phil. ii. 13. Thou hast wrought all our Works in us, and for us, Isa. xvi. 12. So that the Condition be fulfilled, it is

not done in the Ability of the Creature.

But, Secondly, Faith, as it is a Gift of God, or an Act of ours, take it which way you will : If we speak properly of *Salvation* ; it is not the first, nor the second Cause of our *Salvation* ; but the third, and that but instrumentally neither ; that is, it only layeth hold of, and applieth to us that which saveth us, which is the Love of God, thro' the Merits of Christ, which are the two main Causes of our *Salvation*, without which all other Things are nothing, whether it be *Faith*, *Hope*, *Love*, or whatever can be done by us. And to this, the great *Apostle of the Gentiles* speaks fully ; for, saith he, *God who is rich in Mercy, loved us, even when we were dead in our Sins*, Eph. ii. 4. (that is, when we are without Faith) and that was the Cause why we believe ; for he thereby hath quickened us together, thro' the meritorious Cause, which is *Christ*, and hath so saved us by *Grace*, that is, of his own voluntary *Love* and *good Will* ; the Effects of which was this, he gave us *Faith* to believe in *Christ* ; read soberly that Second of the *Ephesians*, at the 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 Verses. *Faith*, as the Gift of God is not the Saviour, as our Act doth merit nothing. Faith was not the Cause that God gave *Christ* at the first, neither is it the Cause why God converts Men to *Christ* : But Faith is a Gift bestowed upon us by the gracious God, the Nature of which is to lay hold on *Christ*, that God afore did give for a Ransom to redeem Sinners : This Faith hath its Nourishment and Supplies from the same God, that at the first did give it ; and is the only Instrument, through the *Spirit*, that doth keep the Soul in a comfortable *Frame*, both to do and suffer for *Christ*, helps

So *What Men may attain to,*

helps the Soul to receive Comfort from Christ, when it can get none from itself, beareth up the Soul in its Progress Heaven-wards : But that it is the first Cause of Salvation, that I deny ; or that it is the second, I deny : But is only the Instrument, or Hand, that receiveth the Benefits that God hath prepared for thee before thou hadst any Faith : So that we do nothing for Salvation, as we are Men. But if we speak properly, *It was God's Grace that moved him to give Christ a Ransom for Sinners, and the same God with the same Grace, that doth give to the Soul Faith to believe, and so by believing, to close in with him, whom God out of his Love and Pity, did send into the World to save Sinners ; so that all the Works of the Creature are shut out, as to Justification and Life, and Men are saved freely by Grace.* I shall speak no more here, but in my Discourse upon the second Covenant, I shall answer a Hell-bred Objection or two, to forewarn Sinners, how they turn the Grace of God into Wantonness.

And thus you see I have briefly spoken to you something touching the Law. First, What it is, and when given. Secondly, How sad those Mens Conditions are that are under it. Thirdly, Who they are that are under it. Fourthly, How far they may go, and what they may do, and receive, and yet be under it, which have been done by Way of Answers to several Questions, for the better Satisfaction of those that may stand in doubt of the Truth of what hath been delivered.

Now in the next Place, I shall come to some Application of the Truth of that which hath been spoken ; but I shall in the first Place speak something

thing to the second Doctrine, and then afterwards I shall speak something by Way of Use and Application to this first *Doctrine*.

The Second Doctrine now to be spoken to, is to shew, That the People of God are not under the Law, but under Grace.

For ye are not under, the Law, but under Grace,
Rom. vi. 14.

YOU may well remember, that from these Words, I did observe these two great Truths of the Lord : First, That there are some in Gospel Times that are under the Law, or Covenant of Works.

Secondly, That there is never a Believer under the Law (or Covenant of Works) but under Grace.

I have spoken something to the former of these Truths (to wit) that there are some under the Law, together with who they are, and what their Condition is, that are under it. Now I am to speak to the Second, and to shew you who they are, and what their Condition is, that are under that.

* But before I come to that, I shall speak a few Word, to shew you what the Word *GRACE* in this Place signifies; for the Word *Grace* in the *Scripture*, referreth sometimes to Favour with Men (*Esther* ii. 7. *Gen.* xxxix. 4. Chap.

** I touched upon this in the first Doctrine.*

50. 4, 33, 10.) sometimes to holy Qualifications of Saints (2 Cor. viii. 7.) and sometimes to hold forth the Condescension of Christ, in coming down from the Glory which he had with his Father before the World was, to be made of no Reputation, and a Servant to Men (2 Cor. viii. 9. Phil. ii. 2, 7.) Again, sometimes it is taken for the free, rich, and unchangeable Love of God to Man through Jesus Christ; that for our Cause and Sakes did make himself poor; and so it is to be understood in these Words, *For you are not under the Law* (to be cursed and damned, and sent headlong to Hell) *but (you are) under Grace*, to be saved, to be pardoned, to be preserved, and kept by the mighty Power of God, through Faith, (which alone is the Gift of Grace) unto eternal Glory. This one Scripture alone proves the same, Eph. ii. 8. *For by Grace you are saved*, by free Grace, by rich Grace, by unchangeable Grace: And you are saved from the Curse of the Law, from the Power, Guilt, and Filth of Sin, from the Power, Malice, Madness and Rage of the Devil, from the Wishes, Curses, and Desires of wicked Men; from the hot, scalding, flaming, fiery Furnace of Hell; from being arraigned, as Malefactors, convinced, judged, condemned, and fettered with the Chains of our Sins to the Devils to all Eternity; and all this freely, freely by his Grace (Rom. iii. 24.) by rich Grace, unchangeable Grace; for faith he, *I am God, and change not: therefore ye Sons of Jacob are not consumed*, Mal. iii. 6. This is Grace indeed.

The Word [*G R A C E*] therefore in this Scripture (Rom. vi. 14.) is to be understood of the free Love of God in Christ to Sinners, by Virtue

of the new Covenant, in delivering them from the Power of Sin, from the Curse and condemning Power of the Old Covenant, from the destroying Nature of Sin, by its continual Workings; as is all evident, if you read with Understanding the Words as they lie, *For (saith he) Sin shall not have Dominion over you,* or it shall not domineer, reign, or destroy you, tho' you have transgressed against the Covenant of Works (the Law) and the Reason is rendered in these Words, *For ye are not under the Law*; that is, under that which accuseth, chargeth, condemneth, and brings Execution on the Soul for Sin, *but under Grace*, that is, under that which frees you, forgives you, keeps you, and justifies you from all your Sins, Adversaries, or whatever may come in to lay any thing to your charge to damn you. For that is truly called Grace in this Sense, that doth set a Man free from all his Sins, deliver him from all the Curses of the Law, and what else can be laid to his charge, freely without any Foresight in God to look at what Good will be done by the Party that hath offended: And also that doth keep the Soul by the same Power thro' Faith (which also is his own proper Gift) unto eternal Glory.

Again, That is a Pardon not conditional, but freely given; consider first, it is set in Opposition to Works; *You are not under the Law*. Secondly, The Promise that is made to them (saying, *Sin shall not have Dominion over you*) doth not run with any Condition, as on their Part to be done; but meerly and alone because they were (*under*) or because they had the Grace of God extended to them; *Sin shall not have Dominion over you, For (mark the Reason) For you are*
not

not under the Law, but under Grace. The Words being thus opened, and the Truth thus laid down, how there is never a Believer under the Covenant of Works, but under Grace, the free, rich, unchangeable Love of God : It remaineth, that in the first Place we prove the Doctrine, and after that proceed.

Now in the Doctrine there is two Things to be considered and proved. First, That Believers are under Grace. Secondly, Not under the Law as a Covenant of Works (for so you must not understand me ;) for these two we need go no further than the very Words themselves ; the first Part of the Words proves the first Part of the Doctrine, *You are not under the Law* ; the second Part proves the other, *But (ye are) under Grace.*

But besides these, consider with me a few things for the demonstrating of these Truths ; as,

First, They are not under the Law, because their Sins are pardoned ; which could not be, if they were dealt withal according to the Law, and their being under it ; for the Law alloweth of no Repentance, but accuseth, curseth, and condemneth every one that is under it. *Cursed is every one that continueth not in all Things written in the Book of the Law to do them,* Gal. iii. 10. But, I say, Believers having their Sins forgiven them, it is because they are under another, even a New Covenant, Heb. viii. 8. *Behold the Days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new Covenant with them : For, I will be merciful to their Unrighteousness, and their Sins, and their Iniquities will I remember no more,* Verse 4.

Secondly, They are not under the Law, because their Sins and Iniquities are not only forgiven,

given, but they are forgiven them freely: They that stand in the first Covenant, and continue there, are to have never a Sin forgiven them unless they can give God a compleat Satisfaction; for the Law calls for it at their Hands, saying, *Pay me that thou owest.* O but when God deals with his Saints by the Covenant of Grace it is not so; for it is said, *And when he saw they had nothing to pay, he frankly and freely forgave them all. I will heal their back-slidings, and love them freely, I will blot out thy Transgressions for mine own sake, &c.* Luke 7. 42. Hos. 14. 4. Isa. 43. 25.

Thirdly, The Saints are not under the Law, because the Righteousness that they stand justified before God in, is not their own actual Righteousness by the Law, but by Imputation; and is really the Righteousness of another, namely, of God in Christ, 2 Cor. 5. 21. Phil. 3. 8. 9. 10. *Even the Righteousness of God, which is by Faith of Jesus Christ, which is unto all, and upon all* (that is imputed to) *them that believe,* Rom. 3. 22. But if they were under the Old Covenant, the Covenant of Works, then their Righteousness must be their own * *But it is impossible that the Righteousness of Man by the Law should save him.* or no Forgiveness of Sins, *If thou do well, shalt not thou be accepted? but if thou transgress, Sin lieth at the Door, saith the Law, Gen. 4. 7.*

Fourthly, In a Word, whatsoever they do receive, whether it be Conversion to God, whether it be Pardon of Sin, whether it be Faith or Hope, whether it be Righteousness, whether it be Strength, whether it be the Spirit, or the Fruits thereof, whether it be Victory over Sin, Death, or Hell, whether it be Heaven, everlasting Life, and Glory unexpressible,

or whatsoever it be, it comes to them freely, God having no first Eye to what they would do, or should do, for the obtaining of the same. But to take this in Pieces. 1. In a Word, are they converted? God finds them first, for saith he, *I am found of them that sought me*, Isa 65. 1.

2. Have they pardon of Sin? They have that also freely, *I will heal their Back-slidings, and love them freely*, Hos. 14. 4.

3. Have they Faith? It is the Gift of God in Christ Jesus, *and he is not only the Author* (that is the Beginning thereof) *but he doth also perfect the same*, Heb. 12. 2.

4. Have they Hope? It is God that is the first cause thereof. *Remember thy Word unto thy Servant, where in THOU hast caused me to hope*, Psalm 119. 49.

5. Have they Righteousness? It is a free Gift of God, Rom. 5. 17.

6. Have they Strength to do the Work of God in their Generations? or any other thing that God would have them do? that also is a free Gift from the Lord, for without him, we neither do, nor can do any thing, John 15. 5.

7. Have we Comfort or Consolation? We have it not for what we have done, but from God through Christ; for he is *the God of all our Comforts and Consolations*, 2 Cor. 1.

8. Have we the Spirit, or the Fruits thereof? It is the Gift of the Father. *How much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?* Luke 11. 13. *Thou hast wrought all our Works for us*, Isa. 26. 12.

And so I say, whether it be Victory over Sin, Death, Hell, or the Devil, it is given us by the Victory of Christ. *But Thanks be to God which hath given us the Victory through our Lord Je-*

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Jesus Christ, 1 Cor. 15. 57. Rom. 7. 24, 25. Heaven and Glory, it is also the Gift of him who giveth us richly all Things to enjoy, Mar. 25.

So that these things, if they be duly and soberly considered, will give Satisfaction in this thing. I might have added many more for the clearing of these things: As first, when God came to Man to convert him, he found him a *dead Man*, Eph. 2. 1, 2. he found him an *Enemy to God*, Christ, and the *Salvation of his own Soul*, he found him wallowing in all manner of *Wickedness*, he found him taking *Pleasure therein, with all Delight and Greediness*.

2. He was fain to quicken him by putting his Spirit into him, and to translate him by the mighty Operation thereof.

3. He was fain to reveal Christ Jesus unto him Man being altogether senseless, and ignorant of his blessed Jesus, Mar. xi. 25, 27. 1 Cor. ii. 7, 8, 9, 10.

4. He was fain to break the Snare of the Devil, and to let poor Man, poor bound and fettered Man, out of the Chains of the Enemy.

Now we are to proceed, and the things that we are to treat upon in the second Place, are these;

First, * Why it is a free and un- * Besides the changeable Grace. *Reasons already given.*

Secondly, Who they are that are actually brought into his free and unchangeable Covenant of Grace, and how brought in.

Thirdly, What are the Privileges of those that are actually brought into this free and glorious Grace of the glorious God of Heaven and Glory.

For the first, *Why it is a free and unchangeable Grace*; and for the Opening of this, we must consider, First, How, and through whom this Grace doth come to be, first free to us, and secondly unchangeable. This Grace is free to us,

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through Conditions in another; that is, by way of Covenant, or Bargain, for this Grace comes by way of Covenant or Bargain to us, yet made with another for us.

First, That it comes by way of Covenant, Contrast, or Bargain, (though not personally with us) be pleased to consider these Scriptures, where it is said, *Psal.*

** The Word David in this Place signifieth Christ, as also in these Scriptures.*

*89. 3. * I have made a Covenant with my chosen: I have sworn unto David my Servant. And as for thee also, by the Blood of thy Cove-*

nant (speaking of Christ) have I sent forth the Prisoners out of the Pit, wherein was no Water, Zech. 9. 9, 10, 11. Again, you have sold your selves for nought, and you shall be bought without Money, Ezek. 34, 23, 24. Chap. 37. 24, 25. Blessed be the Lord (therefore saith Zacharias) for he hath visited and (also) REDEEMED his People. And hath raised up an Horn of Salvation for us, in the House of his Servant David. As

I might give you more Scriptures, but pray consider the second Thing.

he spake by the Mouth of his holy Prophets, which have been since the World began: That he should be

*saved from our Enemies, and from the Hands of all that hate us: To perform his Mercy promised to our Fathers, and to remember his holy Covenant, or Bargain, Luke 1, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72. And if any should be offended with the Plainness of these Words, as some poor Souls may be through Ignorance, let them be pleased to read soberly the 49th chap. of the Prophet *Isaiah*, from 1st Ver. to the 12th, and there they may see that it runs as plain*

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plain a Bargain, as if two should be making of a Bargain between themselves, and concluding upon several Conditions of both Sides; but more of this hereafter.

Now Secondly, This Covenant (I say) was made with one, not with many, and also confirmed in the Conditions of it with one, not with several. First, That the Covenant was made with one, see *Gal. 3. 16.* Now to Abraham and to his Seed was the Promise made; he saith not to Seeds, as of many; but as of one; and to thy Seed, which is Christ, ver. 17. And this I saw the Covenant which was confirmed before of God, in Christ, &c. The Covenant was made with the Seed of Abraham, not the Seeds, but the Seed, which is the Lord Jesus Christ, our Head, and Undertaker in the Things concerning the Covenant.

4. The Condition was made with one, and also accomplished by him alone, and not by several; yet in the Nature, and for the everlasting Deliverance of many; even by one Man Jesus Christ, as it is clear from *Rom. 5. 15, 16, 19, &c.* and in *Zech. 9. 11.* the Lord saith to Christ, *And as for thee;* mark, *as for thee also,* by the Blood of the Covenant, or as for thee whose Covenant was by Blood; that is the Conditions of the Covenant was, that thou shouldst spill thy Blood; which having done in the Account of God (saith he) I according to my Condition, have let go the Prisoners, or sent them out of the Pit wherein was no Water; those Scriptures in *Galatians 3.* at the 16th and 17th Verses that are above cited, are notable to our Purpose; the sixteenth Verse saith it was made with Christ, and the seventeenth saith,

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it was also confirmed in, or with God in him, pray read and understand. Now (saith Paul) the Promises were not made unto Seeds, as of many; but as of one, and to thy Seed which is Christ. — The Law which was four hundred and thirty Years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the Promise of none Effect. Not that the Covenant made with Abraham and Christ together, as two Persons that were the Undertakers of the same; the Promise was made with, or, to Abraham afterwards; but the Covenant with Christ before. Further, that the Covenant was not personally made with Abraham; no, nor with any of the Fathers, neither so that they were the Persons that should stand engaged, to be the Accomplishers thereof, either in whole, or in part; which is very clear.

First, Because this Covenant was not made with God and the Creature; nor with another poor Adam, that only stood upon the Strength of his natural Abilities; but this Covenant was made with the second Person, with the Eternal Word of God; with him that was every way as holy, as pure, as infinite, as powerful, and as everlasting as God, *Prov.* 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30. *Zech.* 13. 7. *Rev.* 1. 11, 17, 22. 13. 16. *Isa.* 9. 6. *Phil.* 2. 6. *Heb.* 1.

Secondly, This Covenant or Bargain was made indeed and in Truth, before Man was in Being. Oh! God thought of the Salvation of Man before there was any Transgression of Man; for then I say, and not since then, was the Covenant of Grace made with the Undertaker thereof; for all the other Sayings are to shew unto us that glorious Plot and Contrivance that was

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concluded on before time, between the Father and the Son, which may very well be concluded on for a Truth from the Word of God, if you consider ; First, That the Scripture doth declare that the Price was agreed on by the Son before Time ; the Promise was made to him by the Father, that he should have his Bargain before Time ; and the Choice, who they were that should be saved, was made before Time, even before the World began.

For the First, that the Price was agreed upon before the World began : Consider the Word which speaketh of the Price that was paid for Sinners, even *the precious Blood of Christ* : It saith of him, *who verily was fore-ordained before the Foundation of the World, but was made manifest in these last Times for you, who by him do believe, &c.* 1 Pet. i. 19. 20. Mark, it was fore-ordained or concluded on between the Father his Son before the World began.

Secondly, The Promise from God to the Son was also made in the same manner, as it is clear, where the Apostle saith with Comfort to his Soul, that he had *Hopes of eternal Life, which God that cannot lie, promised before the World began, Tit. 1. 2.* which could be to none but the Mediator of the New Covenant, because there was none else to whom it should be made but he.

Thirdly, The Choice was also made then, even before Man had a Being in the World, as it is evident where he saith, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed US with all spiritual Blessings in Heavenly Places IN Christ, according as he hath chosen US in him before the Foundation of the World, that we*

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should be holy and without Blame for him in Love,

* *Did I think this
would meet with any
Opposition, I should be
in this more large.*

Eph. 1. 3, 4. Nay, * did
I look upon it here to be
necessary, I should shew
you very largely and clear-
ly, that God did not only

make the Covenant with Christ before the World
began, and the Conditions thereof: But I could
also shew you that the very Saints Qualifications,
as Part of the Covenant, was then concluded on
by the Father and the Son, according to these
Scriptures, Eph. 1. 3, 4. chap. 2. 10. and
Rom. 8. 18. which it may be I may touch upon
further anon.

But, Thirdly, This Covenant was not made
with any of the Fathers, neither in whole, nor
in part, as the Undertakers thereof; for then
it must be also concluded, that they are Co-
partners with Christ in our Salvation, and so
that Christ is not Mediator alone: But this
would be Blasphemy for any one to surmize:
And therefore by the Way, when thou reade-
st of the New Covenant in Scripture, as though
it was made with *Adam Noah, Abraham, or
David*, thou art to consider this with thyself:
First, that God spake to them in such a Way,
for to shew, or signify unto us, how he did
make the Covenant, that he did make with
Christ, before the World began, they being
Types of him. Secondly, That he thereby
might let them understand that he was the
same then as he is now, and now as he was
then; and that then it was resolved on between
His Son and He, that in After-ages his Son
should in their Natures, from their Loins, and
for their Sins, be born of a Woman, hanged on

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the Cross, &c. for them: For all along you may see that when he speaketh to them of the New Covenant, he mentions their Seed, their Seed, still aiming at Christ; Christ the Seed of the Woman, was to break the Serpent's Head, Gen. 3. 15. Gen. 27. Psalm 87. 36. Now to Abraham and his Seed, was the Promise made, his Seed shall endure for ever, and his Throne as the Days of Heaven, &c. still pointing at Christ. And Thirdly, to stir up their Faith and Expectations to be constant unto the End, in waiting for that which he and his Son had concluded on before time, and what he had since the Conclusion declared unto the World by the Prophets. Fourthly, It appeareth that the Heart of God was much delighted therein also, as is evident, in that he was always in every Age, declaring of that unto them, which before he had prepared for them. O this good God of Heaven!

Object. But (you will say perhaps) the Scriptures say plainly, that the New Covenant was, and is made with Believers, saying, *The Days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a New Covenant with the House of Israel, and the House of Judah, not according to the Covenant that I made with their Father in the Day in which I brought them out of the Land of Egypt, &c.* Heb. 8. 10, 11, 12. Jer. 31. 33. So that it doth not run with Christ alone, but with Believers also, I will make a New Covenant with the House of Israel and Judah, &c.

1. *Answer.* First, It cannot be meant that the New Covenant was made with Christ, and the House of Israel and Judah as the Undertaker thereof: For so it was made with Christ alone,

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which is clear, in that it was made long before the House of *Israel* and *Judah* had a Being, as I shewed before.

2. *Ans.* But, Secondly, These Words here are spoken, first, to shew rather the End of the Ceremonies, than the Beginning or Rise of the New Covenant. Mind a little; the Apostle is labouring to beat the *Jews* (to whom he wrote this Epistle) off of the Ceremonies of the Law, of the Priests, Altar, Offerings, Temple, &c. and to bring them to the right Understanding of the thing and things that they held forth, which was to come, and to put an End to those. If you do but understand the Epistle to the *Hebrews*, it is a Discourse that sheweth that the Son of God being come, there is an End put to the Ceremonies; for they were to continue so long and no longer. *I*, saith the Apostle, stood in Meats and Drinks, and divers Washings, and carnal Ordinances imposed on them until the Time of Reformation; that is, until Christ did come. But Christ being come an High Priest of good Things to come, &c,—puts an End to the Things and Ordinances of the Levitical Priesthood, read the 7, 8, 9, 10 Chapters, and you will find this true. So then, when he saith, *The Days come in which I will make a New Covenant*, it is rather to be meant a changing of the Administration, a taking away the Type, the Shadow, the Ceremonies from the House of *Israel* and *Judah*, and relieving, by the Birth of Christ, and the Death of Christ, and the Offering of the Body of him, whom the Shadows and Types did point out to be indeed he, whom God the Father had given for a Ransom by Covenant for the Souls of the Saints; and also to manifest

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the Truth of that Covenant which was made between the Father and the Son before the World began ; for though the New Covenant was made before the World began, and also every one in all Ages was saved by the Virtue of that Covenant ; yet that Covenant was never so clearly made manifest, as at the coming Death and Resurrection of Christ ; and therefore saith the Scripture, *He hath brought Life and Immortality to Light through the Gospel*, 2 Tim. 1. 9, 10. *Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy Calling, not according to the Works of Righteousness which we have done ; but according to his own Purpose and Grace, which was given us in Christ before the World began* (there is the Covenant) *but it was MANIFEST by the APPEARING of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished Death, and brought Life and Immortality to LIGHT through the Gospel*: Therefore, I say, these Words are rather to discover that the Time was come to change the Dispensation, to take away the Type, and bring in the Substance, and so manifesting that more clearly, which before lay hid in dark Sayings and Figures. And this is usual with God to speak in this Manner.

Again. If at any Time you find in the Scripture, that the Covenant of Works is spoken of, as the first Covenant that was manifested, and so before the second Covenant ; yet you must understand that it was so only, as to Manifestation; that is, it was first given to Man, yet not made before that which was made with Christ: And indeed it was requisite that it should be given, or made known first, that thereby there might be a Way made for the Second, by its dis-

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covering of Sin, and the sad State that Man was in after the Fall, by reason of that. And again, that the other might be made the more welcome to the Sons of Men.

** Yet the second Adam was before the first, and also the second Covenant before the first. This is a Riddle.*

** And in this did Christ in time most gloriously answer Adam, who was the Figure of Christ (Rom. 5.) as well as of other things, for as the first Covenant was made with the first Adam, so was the second Covenant made with the second; for these are and were the two great publick Persons, or Representatives of the whole World, as to the first and second Covenants; and therefore you find God speaking on this wise in Scripture concerning the new Covenant, My Covenant shall and fast with HIM, Psalm 89. 28, 34, 35. My Mercy, will I keep for HIM for evermore, saith God; my Covenant shall stand fast with HIM (this HIM is Christ, if you compare this with Luke 1. 32.) My Covenant will I not break, namely, that which was made with HIM, nor alter the Thing that is gone out of my Mouth: Once*

† David here is to be understood Christ.

have I sworn by my Holiness that I will not lie unto † DAVID, to whom this was spoken figuratively in the Person of Christ; for that was God's usual way to speak of the glorious things of the Gospel in the time of the Law, as I said before.

Secondly, The Conditions also were concluded on, and agreed to be fulfilled by him; as it is clear, if you understand his Saying in the 12th of St. John at the 27th Ver. where he foretelleth his Death, and saith, Now is my Soul troubled, and

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and what shall I say? Father, save me from this Hour; but for this Cause came I (into the World) unto this Hour: As if he had said, my Business is now not to shrink from my Sufferings that are come upon me; for these are the Things that are a great Part of the Conditions contracted in the Covenant which stands between my Father and I; therefore I shall not pray that this might be absolutely removed from me: For this Cause came I into the World; even this was the very Terms of the Covenant. By this you may say, We are under Grace.

Now in a Covenant there is these three things to be considered;

First, What it is that is covenanted for.

Secondly, The Conditions, upon which the Persons who were concerned in it, do agree.

Thirdly, If the Conditions on both Sides be not according to the Agreement fulfilled, then the Covenant standeth nor, but is made void.

And this new Covenant, in these Particulars, is very exactly fulfilled, and made out in Christ.

First, The Thing or Things covenanted for was the Salvation of Man, but made good in Christ. *The Son of Man is come to seek and save that which was lost. The Son of Man did not come to destroy Mens Lives but to save them. I gave my Life a Ransom for many. And this is the Will (or Covenant) of him that sent me, that of all which he hath given me, I should lose nothing; but should raise it up again at the last Day, John 6. 39.*

Secondly, As touching the Conditions agreed on, they run thus:

First

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First, On the Mediator's Side, that he should come into the World ; and then on the Father's Side, that he should give him a Body. This was one of the *glorious Conditions* between the Father and Christ. *Wherefore when he cometh into the World, he saith, Sacrifices and Offerings thou wouldest not*: that is the Old Covenant must not stand, but give way to another Sacrifice which thou hast prepared, which is the giving up my Manhood to the Strokes of thy *Justice*, for a *Body hast thou prepared me*, Heb. xiii. 20, 21. This doth prove us under Grace.

Secondly, On the Mediator's Side, that he should be put to Death ; and on God the Father's Side, that he should raise him up again ; this was concluded on also to be done between God the Father, and his Son Jesus Christ. On Christ's Side, that he should die to give the Justice of the Father *Satisfaction*, and so to take away the Curse that was due to *wretched Sinners*, by reason of our Transgressions ; and that God his Father, being every ways fully and compleatly satisfied, should by his mighty Power revive and raise him up again. He hath brought again — our Lord Jesus ; that is, from Death to Life, *through* (the Virtue or effectual Satisfaction that he received from) *the Blood* (that was shed according to the Terms) *of the everlasting Covenant*, Heb. xiii. 21, 22.

Thirdly, On the Mediator's Side, that he should be made a Curse ; and on the Father's Side, that through him Sinners should be Inheritors of the *Blessing* ; what wonderful Love doth there appear by this in the Heart of our Lord Jesus, in suffering such things for our poor Bodies and Souls ? Gal. iii. 13, 14. This is Grace.

Fourthly,

Fourthly, That on the Mediator's Side, there should be *by him* a Victory over Hell, Death, and the Devil, and the Curse of the Law ; and on the Father's Side, that these should be communicated to Sinners, and they set at Liberty thereby, *Zech. 9. 10. Turn to the strong Hold, saith God, ye Prisoners of Hope, even to Day do I declare that I will render double unto thee.* Why so ? It is because of the Blood of my Son's Covenant, Verse 11. Which made *Paul* (though sensible of a Body Death, and of the Sting that Death did strike into the Souls of all those that are found in their Sins) bold to say, *O Death, where is thy Sting ? O Grave, where is thy Victory ? The Sting of Death is Sin*, that is true, and the terrible Law of God doth aggravate, and set it home with insupportable Torment and Pain. But shall I be daunted at this ? No, *I thank my God through Jesus Christ, he hath given me the Victory* ; so that now, though I be a Sinner in myself, yet I can by believing in Jesus Christ the Mediator of this New Covenant, Triumph over the Devil, Sin, Death and Hell ; and say, Do not fear, my Soul, seeing the *Victory* is obtained over all my Enemies through my Lord Jesus, *1 Cor. 15. 55, 56, 57.* This is the Way to prove ourselves under Grace.

Fifthly, That on the Mediator's Side he should by thus doing, bring an *everlasting* Righteousness for Saints, *Dan. 9. 24.* And that the Father for this, should give them an everlasting Kingdom, *1 Pet. 1. 3, 4, 5. Ephes. 1. 4. 2 Tim. 4. 18. Luke 22. 28, 29.*

** Christ is put into Office by the Father, to do all Things contained in the new Covenant.*

** But in the next Place, this was not all; that is, the Covenant of Grace, with the Conditions thereof, was not only concluded on by both Parties to be done, but Jesus Christ he*

must be authorized to do what was concluded on touching this Covenant by way of Office. I shall therefore speak a Word or two also, touching the Offices, (at least some of them) that Christ Jesus did, and doth still execute as the Mediator of the New Covenant, which also was typed out by the Levitical Law; for this is the way to prove that we are not under the Law but under Grace.

** His Suretyship.* ** And first, His first Office after the Covenant was made and concluded upon, was, that Jesus should become bound as a Surety, and stand engaged upon Oath to see that all the Conditions of the Covenant, that was concluded on between him and his Father, should according to the Agreement, be accomplished by him. And secondly, That after that, he should be the Messenger from God to the World, to declare the Mind of God, touching the Tenor and Nature of both the Covenants, especially the new one; the Scripture saith, That Jesus Christ was not only made a Priest by an Oath, but also a Surety or Bonds-man; as in 7th of Heb. at the 21st and 22d Verses: in the 21st Ver. he speaks of the Priesthood of Christ, that it was with an Oath; and saith in the 22d Verse, By so much (also) was Jesus made the Surety of a better Testament (or Covenant)*

Now the Covenant was not only made on Jesus Christ's Side with an Oath, but also on God the Father's Side, that it might be for the better

ground of Establishment to all those that are, or are to be the Children of the Promise. Methinks it is wonderful to consider, that the God and Father of our Souls, by Jesus Christ, should be so bent upon the Salvation of Sinners, that he would covenant with his Son Jesus for the Security of them; and also that there should pass an *Oath* on both Sides, for the Confirmation of their Resolution to do good; as if the Lord had said, My Son, thou and I have here made a Covenant, that I, on my Part, should do thus, and thus; and that thou on thy Part shouldest do so and so: Now that we may give these Souls the best Ground of Comfort that may be, there shall pass an *Oath* on both Sides, that our Children may see that we do indeed love them. *Wherein* God, willing more *ABUNDANTLY* to shew unto the Heirs of the Promise, the Immutability of his Counsel (in making of the Covenant) confirmed it by an *Oath*——That we might have strong Consolation, who have fled for Refuge to lay hold upon the Hope set before us, Heb. 6. 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18. Heb. 7. 21. Mark, the sixth Chapter saith, God confirmed his Part by an *Oath*; and the seventh saith, Christ was made, or set on his Office also by an *Oath*. Again, Once (saith God) have I sworn by my Holiness, that I will not lie unto David, Psal. 89. 34, 35. nor alter the Thing that is gone out of my Mouth; as was before cited.

Herein you may see that God and Christ was in good earnest about the Salvation of Sinners; for so soon as ever the Covenant was made, the next Thing was, who should be bound to see all those Things fulfilled which was conditioned on between the Father and the Son: The Angels, they

they would have no hand in it : The *World* could not do it ; The *Devils* had rather see them damned, than they would wish them the least Good ; thus Christ looked, and there was none to help ; though the Burthen lay ever so heavy upon *his Shoulder*, he must *bear* it himself ; for there was none besides himself to uphold, or so much as to step in to be *bound*, to see the Conditions (before mentioned) fulfilled, neither in whole, nor in part (*Isa. 63. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.*) So that he must not be only he, with whom the Covenant was *made*, but he must also become the *Bonds-man*, or Surety thereof ; and so stand *bound* to see, that all and every particular thing conditioned for, should be both in Manner and Matter, at the Time and Place, according to the Agreement, duly and orderly fulfilled Is not this Grace ?

Now as touching the Nature of a *Surety* and his Work (in some Things it is well known to most Men ; therefore I shall be very brief upon it.

First, You know a *Surety* is at the *Bargain* making ; and so was Christ. *Then was I by him*, *Prov. viii. 30.*

Secondly, A *Surety* must consent to the Terms of the Agreement, or Covenant ; and so did Christ Jesus.

Now that which he did engage should be done for Sinners, according to the Terms of the Covenant, was this.

First, That there should be a *complete* Satisfaction given to God for the Sins of the World, for that was one great thing that was agreed upon, when the Covenant was made, *Heb. 10. 5.*

Secondly,

Secondly, That Jesus Christ should (as afore-said) bring in an everlasting Righteousness to cloath (his Body) the Saints withal, *Dan.* 9. 24, 25. Here is Grace.

Thirdly. That he would take in Charge to see all those forth-coming without Spot or Wrinkle, at the Day of his glorious appearing from Heaven to Judgment, and to quit them before the Judgment-seat.

Again, *Thirdly*, in the Work of a *Surety*, there is required by the *Creditor*, that the *Surety* should stand to what he is *Bound*; and on the *Surety's* Part there is a consenting thereto

* First, the *Creditor* looks, that in case the *Debtor* proves a Bankrupt, that then the *Surety* should engage the Payment. Is not this Grace?

* However it is in other Engagements, yet it is thus in this.

Secondly, The *Creditor* looks that *Surety* should be an *able Man*: Now our *Surety* was, and is, in this Case very suitable; for he is *Heir of all Things*.

Thirdly, The *Creditor* appoints the Day, and also looks that the Covenant should be kept, and the Debt paid according to the Time appointed; and it is required of *Sureties* (as well as *Stewards*) that they be found faithful, namely, to pay the Debt according to the *Bargain*; and therefore it is said, *When the fulness of Time was come, God sent forth his Son — made under the Law, to redeem them that are under the Law* (according to the *Suretyship*) *Gal.* 4. 4, 5. thus comes Grace to Saints.

Fourthly, The *Creditor* looks that his Money should be brought into his House, to his own Habita-

Habitation. Jesus our Surety, in this also is faithful ; for by his own Blood, which was the Payment, he is entered into the holy Place, even into Heaven it self, which is God's dwelling Place, to render the Value and Price that was agreed upon for the Salvation of Sinners, but I shall speak more of this in another Head ; therefore I pass it.

** Though the Debtor, together with the Surety, is liable to pay the Debt by the Law of Man, yet Christ our Surety only by the Covenant of Grace.*

Christ our Surety came down from Heaven, God's Law did so seize upon the Lord Jesus, and so cruelly handle him, and so exact upon him, that it would never let him alone, until it had accused him, and condemned him, executed him, and screwed his very Heart's Blood out of his precious Heart and Side ; nay, and more than this too, as I shall shew hereafter.

But, secondly, in the next Place, after that Jesus Christ had stood bound, and was become our Surety in Things pertaining to this Covenant, his next Office was to be the *Messenger* of God touching his Mind, and the Tenor of the Covenant, unto the poor World ; and this did the Prophet foresee long before, when he saith, *Behold, I will send my Messenger, and he shall prepare thy Way before thee,* (speaking of John the Baptist :) *And he shall prepare thy Way before thee:* And then he speaketh of Christ to the People, saying,) *And the Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly*

** Again, fourthly, If the Surety stands bound, the Debtor is at Liberty, and if the Law do issue out any Process to take any, it will be the Surety ; and O! how wonderful true was this accomplished, in that when*

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come to his Temple: Who is he? Even the Messenger of the Covenant, whom ye delight in: (that is Christ) Behold he shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts, Mal. 3. 1.

Now the Covenant before made before between the Father and the Son, and Jesus Christ becoming bound to see all the Conditions fulfilled; this being done, he comes down from Heaven to Earth, to declare to the World what God the Father and He hath concluded on before, and what was the Mind of the Father towards the World, concerning the Salvation of their Souls; and indeed, who could better come on such an Errand than he that stood by when the Covenant was made? than he that shook Hands with the Father in making of the Covenant? than he that was become a Surety in the Behalf of poor Sinners, according to the Terms of this Covenant?

Now, you know, a Messenger commonly when he cometh, he doth bring some Errand to them to whom he is sent, either of what is done for them, or what they would have them, whom they send unto, do for them, or such like: Now what a glorious Message was that which our Lord Jesus Christ came down from Heaven withal to declare unto poor Sinners, and that from God his Father? I say, how glorious was it? and how sweet is it to you that have seen yourselves lost by Nature? and it will also appear a Glorious one to you, who are a seeking after Jesus Christ, if you do but consider these following Things about what he was sent.

First, Jesus Christ was sent from Heaven, to declare unto the World, from God the Father,

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ther, that he was wonderfully filled with Love to poor Sinners. First, In that he would forgive their Sins. Secondly, In that he would save their Souls. Thirdly, In that he would make them Heirs of his Glory. *For God so loved the World, that he gave his only begotten Son.*——*For God sent not his Son into the World to condemn the World; but that the World, through him might be saved,* John 3. 15, 16, 18.

Secondly, God sent Jesus Christ to tell the poor World, how that he would do this for poor Sinners, and yet be just, and yet do his Justice no Wrong; and that was to be done by Jesus Christ his dying of a cursed Death in the Room of poor Sinners, to satisfy Justice, and make Way for Mercy; to take away the stumbling Blocks, and set open Heaven's Gates; to overcome Satan, and break off from Sinners his Chains; to set (Luke 4. 18.) open the Prison Doors, and to let the Prisoners go free, Isa 61. 1, 2, 3. And this was the Message that Christ was to deliver to the World by Commandment from his Father; and this he did tell us when he came of his Errand, where he saith, *I lay down my Life for my Sheep—No Man taketh it away from me, but I lay it down of myself; I have Power to lay it down, and to take it up again; and this Commandment have I received of my Father,* John 10. 15, 16, 17, 18. even this Commandment hath my Father given me, that I should both do this Thing, and also tell it unto you.

Thirdly, He was sent not only as a Messenger to declare his Father's Love, but also how dearly he himself loved Sinners, what a Heart he had to do them good, where he saith, *All that the Father hath given me shall come to*

me (and let me tell you my Heart too, saith Christ) *He that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out.* As my Father is willing to give you unto me, even so am I as willing to receive you. As my Father is willing to give you Heaven, so am I willing to make you fit for it, by washing you with my own Blood: I lay down my Life, that you might have Life; and this I was sent to tell you of my Father.

Fourthly, His Message was further: He came to tell them how, and which Way they should come to enjoy these glorious Benefits; also by laying down Motives to stir them up to accept of the Benefits. The Way is laid down in *John 3. 14. 15.* where Christ saith, *As Moses lifted up the Serpent in the Wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,* or caused to be hanged on the Cross, and die the Death; *that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting Life.* The Way, therefore, that thou shalt have the Benefit and Comfort of that which my Father and I have covenanted for thee, I am come down from Heaven to Earth on purpose to give thee Intelligence, and to certify thee of it: Know, therefore, that as I have been born of a Woman and have taken this Body upon me, it is on purpose that I might offer it upon the Cross a Sacrifice to God, to give him Satisfaction for thy Sins, that his Mercy may be extended to thy Soul, without any Wrong to Justice; and this thou art to believe, and not in the Notion, but from thy very whole Soul. Now the Motives are many; First, if they do not leave their Sins, and come to Jesus Christ, that their Sins might be washed away by his Blood, they are sure to be damned in Hell; for
the

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the *Law* hath condemned them *already*, John 3 18, 19. Secondly, But if they do come, they shall have the *Bosom* of *Christ* to lie in, the *Kingdom* of *Heaven* to dwell in, the *Angels* and *Saints* for their *Companions*, shall *shine* there like the *Sun*, shall be there for *ever*, shall sit upon the *Thrones* of *Judgment*, &c. Here is *Grace*.

Methinks if I had but time to speak fully to all Things that I could speak to, from these two Heavenly Truths, and to make Application thereof; surely, with the Blessing of God, I think it might persuade some vile and abominable Wretch to lay down his Arms that he hath taken up in Defiance against God (and is marching Hell-wards, Post-Haste with the Devil) I say methinks it should stop them, and make them willing to look back, and accept of Salvation for their poor condemned Souls, before God's eternal Vengeance is executed upon them. O therefore! you that are upon this March, I beseech you consider a little: What shall *Christ* become a *Drudge* for you? And will you be *Drudges* for the Devil? Shall *Christ* covenant with God for the *Salvation* of Sinners? and shall Sinners covenant with Hell, Death, and the Devil, for the *Damnation* of their Souls? Shall *Christ* come down from *Heaven* to *Earth* to declare this to Sinners? and shall Sinners stop their Ears against these good Tidings? Will you not hear the *Errand* of *Christ*, although he telleth you *Tidings* of Peace and Salvation? How if he had came, having taken a Command from his Father to damn you, and to send you to the Devils in Hell? Sinners, bear this *Message*, he speaketh *no Harm*, his Words are eternal Life, all Men that give ear unto them, they have eter-

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nal Advantage by them. Advantage, I say, that never hath an End.

Besides, Do but consider these two things, 'tis like they may have some Sway upon thy Soul.

First, When he came on his Message, he came with Tears in his Eyes, and did even weepingly tender the Terms of Reconciliation to them; I say, with Tears in his Eyes. And when he came near the City (*i. e.*) with the Message of Peace, beholding the Hardness of their Hearts, he wept over it, and took up a Lamentation over it; because he saw they rejected his Mercy, which was Tidings of Peace. (I say) Wilt thou then slight a Weeping Jesus, one that so loveth thy Soul, that rather than he will lose thee, he will with Tears persuade with thee.

2. Not only so, but also when he came, he came all on a gore of Blood, to proffer Mercy to thee, to shew thee still how dearly he did love thee; as if he had said; Sinner, here is Mercy for thee; but behold my Bloody Sweat, my Bloody Wounds, my cursed Death; behold and see what Danger I have gone thro' to come unto thy Soul: I am come indeed unto thee, and do bring thee Tidings of Salvation, but it cost me my Heart's Blood before I could come at thee, to give thee the fruits of my everlasting Love. But more of this anon.

Thus have I spoken something concerning Christ's being the Messenger of the New Covenant; but because I am not willing to cut too short off what shall come after, I shall pass by these Things, not half touched, and come to the other which I promised even now; which was to shew you, That as there were Levitical Ceremonies, in, or belonging to the first

G

Covenant,

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Covenant, so these Types or Levitical Ceremonies, did represent the glorious Things of the new Covenant. In those Ceremonies, you read of a Sacrifice; of a Priest to offer up the Sacrifice; the Place where, and the Manner how he was to offer it; of which I shall speak something.

First, As touching the *Sacrifice*, you find that it was not to be offered up of all kind of Beasts; as of *Lions, Bears, Wolves, Tygers, Dragons, Serpents*, or such like. To signify, that not all kind of *Creatures* that had sinned, as *Devils, the fallen Angels*, should be saved: But the *Sacrifice* was to be taken out of some kind of *Beasts and Birds*; to signify, that some kind of *God's Creatures* that had *sinned*, he would be pleased to reconcile them to his self again; as poor fallen *Man and Woman*, those miserable *Creatures*, God the God of Heaven, had a good Look for after their Fall: But not for the *curst Devils*, tho' more noble *Creatures* by *Creation* than *We*. Here is Grace.

Now, though these *Sacrifices* were offered; yet they were not offered to the End, they should make the *Comers to, or Offerers thereof perfect*: But the Things were to represent to the World, what God had in After-ages for to do; which was even the Salvation of his *Creatures*, by *that Offering* of the *Body of Jesus Christ*, of which these were a Shadow and a Type for the accomplishing of the second Covenant. For Christ was by Covenant to offer a *Sacrifice*, and that an effectual one too, if he intended the Salvation of Sinners: *A Body hast thou prepared me; I am come to do thy Will*, Heb. x.

I shall therefore shew you, *First*, What was expected of God in the *Sacrifice*, in the *Type*,
and

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and then shew you how it was answered in the *Anti-type*. Secondly, I shall shew you the *Manner* of the *Offering* of the *Type*; and so answerable thereto, to shew you the *Fitness* of the *Sacrifice* of the *Body* of Christ, by way of answering some Questions.

For the first of these.

First, God did expect that *Sacrifice* which he himself had appointed, and not another. To signify, that none would serve his Turn, but the Body and Soul of his appointed Christ, the Mediator of the New Covenant, *John* i. 29.

Secondly, This *Sacrifice* must not be lame nor deformed; it must have no Scar, Spot, or Blemish, to signify, that Christ Jesus was to be a compleat *Sacrifice* by Covenant, *1 Pet.* i. 29.

Thirdly, This *Sacrifice* was to be taken out of the *Flock* or *Herd*; to signify that Jesus Christ was to come out of the *Race* of *Mankind*, according to the Covenant, *Heb.* x. 5.

But, Secondly, As to the *Manner* of it: *First*, the *Sacrifice*, before it was offered, was to have the Sins of the Children of *Israel* confessed over it: To signify that Jesus Christ must, *Isa.* liii. 4, 5, 6, 7. *1 Pet.* ii. 24. bear the Sins of all his Children by Covenant. *As for thee, by the Blood of thy Covenant, in his own Body on the Tree, Zech.* ix. 10, 11.

Secondly, It must be had to the Place appointed, namely, without the Camp of *Israel*: To signify, that Jesus Christ must lead to the Mount *Calvary*, *Luke* xxiii. 33.

Thirdly, The *Sacrifice* was to be killed there; to signify, that Jesus Christ must, and suffer without the City of *Jerusalem* for our Salvation.

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Fourthly, The Sacrifice must not only have its Life taken away, but also some of its *Flesh* burned upon the *Altar*; to signify, that Jesus Christ was not only to die a natural Death, but also that he should undergo the Pains and Torments of the damned in Hell.

Fifthly, Sometimes there must be a Living Offering, and a Dead Offering; as the Goat that was killed, and the scape Goat; the dead Bird, and the living Bird, *Levit. xiv. 3, 4, 5, 6.* To signify that Jesus Christ must die, and come to Life again.

Sixthly, The Goat that was to die, was to be the *Sin-offering*; that is, to be offered as the rest of the Sin-offerings, to make an Attonement as a Type; and the other Goat was to have all the Sins of the Children of *Israel* confessed over him, *Levit. xvi.* from the 7th Verse to the 22d, and then to be let go into the Wilderness, never to be caught again, to signify that Christ's Death was to make Satisfaction for Sin; and his coming to Life again, was to bring in everlasting, *Rom. iv. 25.* Justification, from the Power, Curse, and destroying Nature of Sin.

Seventhly, The scape Goat was to be carried by a fit Man into the Wilderness. To signify that Jesus Christ should be both fit and able to carry our Sins quite away from us, so as they should never be laid to our Charge again. Here is Grace.

Eighthly, The Sacrifices under the Law, commonly part of them, must be eaten, *Exod. xii. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.* To signify, that they that are saved, should spiritually feed on the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, or else they have no Life by him, *John vi. 51, 52, 53.*

Ninthly,

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Ninthly, This Sacrifice must be eaten with unleavened Bread : To signify, that they which love their Sins, that devilish Leaven of *Wickedness*, they do not feed upon Jesus Christ.

Now of what hath been spoken, this is the Sum: That there is a Sacrifice under the New Covenant, as there were Sacrifices under the Old ; and that this Sacrifice did every way answer that, or those : Indeed, they did but suffer for Sin in shew, but he in Reality ; they as the Shadow, but he as the Substance. O ! when Jesus Christ did come to make himself a Sacrifice, or to offer himself for Sin, you may understand that our Sins were indeed charged to purpose upon him : And how they scared his Soul ! how they brake his Body ! insomuch that they made the Blood run down his blessed Face, and from

his precious Side ; therefore thou must understand these following things. First, that Jesus Christ by Covenant did die for Sin. Secondly, that his Death was not a

As Christ did not suffer in his Body without suffering in Soul nor yet in Soul without his suffering in Body ; it was because not the Body without the Soul, but both the Body and Soul of the Saints should be for ever saved.

meer natural Death, but a cursed Death ; even such a one as Men do undergo from God for their Sins (though he himself had none) even such a Death, as to endure the very Pains and Torments of Hell ; O sad Pains ! and inexpressible Torments, that this our Sacrifice for Sin went under. The Pains of his Body were not all ; no, but the Pains of his *Soul* ; for his Soul was made an Offering, as well as his Body ; yet all but one Sacrifice, *Isa. liii.* To signify, that the Suffering of Christ was not only a Bodily Suffering,

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but a Soul-suffering ; not only to suffer what Man could inflict upon him, but also to suffer Soul-Torments that none but God can inflict, or suffer to be inflicted upon him. O the Torments of his Soul ! they were Torments indeed ; his Soul was that that felt the Wrath of God. *My Soul*, saith he, *is exceeding sorrowful, even unto Death*, Mat. xxvi. 38. *My Soul is troubled, and what shall I say?* John xii. 27. The Rock was not so rent, as was his Soul ; there was not such a terrible Darknes on the Face of the Earth then, as there was on his precious Soul. O the Torments of Hell ! and the Eclipsings of the Divine Smiles of God, were both upon him at once ; the Devils assailing of him, and God forsaking of him, and all at once. *My God, my God*, saith he, *why hast thou forsaken me?* Mat. xxvii. 46. now in my greatest Extremity ; now Sin is laid upon me, the *Curse* takes hold on me, the Pains of Hell are clasped about me, and thou hast forsaken me. O sad ! Sinners, this was not done in Pretence, but in Reality ; not in Shew, but in very Deed ; otherwise Christ had dissembled, and had not spoken the Truth ; but the Truth of it his bloody Sweat declares, his mighty Cries declare the Things what, and for what he suffered declares. Nay, I must say thus much, that all the damned Souls in Hell, with all their Damnations, did never yet feel that Torment and Pain, that did this blessed Jesus in a little Time. Sinner, Canst thou read that Jesus Christ was made an Offering for Sin, and yet go on in Sin ? Canst thou hear that the Load of thy Sins did break the very Heart of Christ, and spill his precious Blood ? And canst thou find in thy Heart to labour to lay more Sins upon his Back ?

Canst

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Canst thou hear that he suffered the Pains, the fiery Flames of Hell, and canst thou find in thy Heart to add to his Groans, by slighting of his Sufferings? O hard-heartèd Wretch! How canst thou deal so unkindly with such a sweet Lord Jesus?

Q. But why did Christ offer himself in Sacrifice?

Ans. That thou shouldest not be thrown to the very Devils.

Quest. But why did he spill his precious Blood?

A. That thou mightest enjoy the Joys of Heaven.

Quest. But why did he suffer the Pains of Hell?

Ans. That thou mightest not fry with the Devil and damned Souls.

Quest. But could not we have been saved if Christ had not died for us?

Ans. No; for without shedding of Blood there is no Remission; and besides, there was no Death that could satisfy God's Justice but his, which is evident; because there was none in a Capacity to die, or that was able to answer an infinite God by his so suffering, but he.

Quest. But why did God let him die?

Ans. He standing in the Room of Sinners; and that in their Names and Natures, God's Justice must fall upon him; for Justice takes Vengeance for Sin wheresoever it finds it, though it be on his dear Son; nay, God favoured his Son no more, finding our Sins upon him, than he would have favoured any of us; for should we have died? so did he: Should we have been made a Curse? so was he: Should we have undergone the Pains of Hell? so did he.

Q. But did he indeed suffer the Torments of Hell?

Ans. Yea, and that in such an horrible Way too, that it is unspeakable.

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Quest. Could he not have suffered without his so suffering? Would not his dying only of a natural Death have served the Turn?

Ans. No, in no wise: The Sins, for which he suffered, called for the Torments of Hell; the Condition in which he died, did call for the Torments of Hell; for Christ did not die the Death of a Saint, but the Death of a Sinner; of a cursed and damned Sinner (because he stood in their Rooms, *Gal. iii. 13.*) the Law to which he was subjected, called for the Torments of Hell; the Nature of God's Justice could not bate him any thing, the Death which he was to suffer, had not lost its Sting; all these being put together, do irresistibly declare unto us, that he, as a Sacrifice, did suffer the Torments of Hell.

But Secondly, Had he not died and suffered the cursed Death, the Covenant had been made void, and his Suretyship would have been forfeited; and besides this, the World damned in the Flames of Hell Fire; therefore his being a Sacrifice was one Part of the Covenant, for the Terms of the Covenant was, That he should spill his Blood, *Zech. ix. 10, 11.* O blessed Jesus! O blessed Grace!

Quest. But why then is his Death so slighted by some?

Ans. Because they are Enemies to him, either through Ignorance, or Presumption; either for want of Knowledge, or out of Malice; for surely, did they love, or believe him, they could not chuse but break, and bleed at Heart, to consider and to think of him, *Zech. xii. 10, 11.*

Thus, passing this, I shall now speak something to Christ's *Priestly Office*; but by the way, if any should think, that I do here spin my
Thread

tread too long, in distinguishing his Priestly Office, from his being a Sacrifice; the supposing that for Christ to be a Priest and a Sacrifice is all one and the same Thing, and it may be it is; because they have not thought on this so well as they should: Namely, that as he was a Sacrifice, he was passive, *Isa. liii.* that is, led or had away as a Lamb to his Sufferings: But as a Priest, he was active; that is, he did willingly, and freely give up his Body to be a Sacrifice. *He hath given his Life a Ransom for many.* This Consideration being with some Weight and Clearness on my Spirit, I was, and am caused to lay them down in two particular Heads. And therefore,

The Second Thing that I would speak something to, it is this; That as there were *Priests* under the first *Covenant*, so there is a Priest under this, belonging to his New Covenant, a High Priest, the Chief Priest; as it is clear, where it is said, *We having an High Priest over the House of God,* Heb. x. 21. Chap. iii. 1. Chap. v. 5, 10. Chap. vii. 24, 25, 26. Chap. viii. 1, 4.

Now the Things that I shall treat upon are these: First, I shall shew you the *Qualifications* required of a Priest under the Law. Secondly, his Office; and thirdly, how Jesus Christ did according to what was signified by those under the Law: I say, how he did answer the *Types*, and where he went beyond them.

For his *Qualifications*.

First, They must be called thereto of God; *No Man takes his Honour upon him, but he that is called of God,* as *Aaron,* Heb. v. 4. Now *Aaron's* being called of God to be a Priest, signifies,

that Jesus Christ is a Priest of God's Appointment, such a one that God hath chosen, likes of, and hath set on work, *called of God an High-Priest, &c. ver. 10.*

Secondly, The Priests under the Law, they must be Men compleat, not deformed; *Speak unto Aaron, saith God to Moses, saying, Whosoever he be of thy Seed in their Generation, that hath any Blemish, let him not approach to offer the Bread of his God: for whatsoever Man he be that hath a Blemish, he shall not approach (if he be) a blind Man, or a lame Man, or that hath a flat Nose, or any thing superfluous, or a Man that is broken footed, or broken handed, or crook-back'd, or a Dwarf, or he that hath a Blemish in his Eye, or be Scurvy, or Scabbed, or hath his Stones broken: No Man that hath a Blemish, of the Seed of Aaron the Priest, shall come nigh to offer Offerings of the Lord made by Fire; he hath a Blemish, he shall not come nigh to offer the Bread of his God, Lev. xxi. 17, 18, 19, 20, 21.* What doth all this signify, but that, in the first Place, he must not be lame, to signify he must not go haltingly about the Work of our Salvation. 2. He must not be blind, to signify that he must not go ignorantly to work, but he must be quick of Understanding in the Things of God. 3. He must not be scabbed, to signify, that the Priest must not be corrupt or filthy in his Office. 4. In a Word, he must be every ways compleat, to signify to us, that Jesus Christ was to be, and is most compleat, and most perfect every Way, an acceptable High-Priest in Things pertaining to God, in Reference to his second Covenant.

Thirdly, The Priests under the Law were not to be hard-hearted, but pitiful and compassionate, will-

willing and ready, with Abundance of Bowels to offer for the People, and to make an Attonement for them, *Heb. v. 1, 2.* To signify, that Jesus Christ should be a tender-hearted High-Priest, able and willing to *sympathize*, and be affected with the Infirmities of others, to pray for them, to offer up for them his precious Blood ; he must be such a one, *who can have Compassion on* (a Company of poor) *ignorant Souls, and on them that are out of the Way,* to recover them, and to set them in Safety, *Heb. iv. 15.* and that he might thus do, he must be a Man that had Experience of the Disadvantages that Infirmary and Sin did bring unto these poor Creatures, *Heb. ii. 17.*

Fourthly, The High-Priests under the Law were not to be shy or *squeamish*, in Case there were any that had the *Plague* or *Leprosy*, *Scab* or *Blotches* ; but must look on them, go to them, and offer for them (*Levit. xiii.* read that whole Chapter) all which is to signify, that Jesus Christ should not refuse to take Notice of the several Infirmities of the poorest People, but to teach them, and to see that none of them be lost, by Reason of their Infirmary, for want of looking to, or tending of. This Privilege also have we under this second Covenant. This is the Way to make Grace shine.

Fifthly, The High-Priests under the Law, they were to be anointed with very excellent Oil, compounded by Art (*Exod. xxix. 7.* Chap. xxx. 30.) to signify, that Jesus Christ the High-Priest of this New Covenant, should be in a most eminent Way anointed to his Priestly Office by the *Holy Spirit* of the Lord.

Sixthly, The Priest's Food and Livelihood in the Time of his *Ministry*, was to be the consecrated and holy Things, *Exod. xxix. 33.* to signify, that it is the very Meat and Drink of Jesus Christ, to do his Priestly Office, and to save and preserve his poor tempted and afflicted Saints. O what a New Covenant High Priest have we.

Seventhly, The Priests under the Law, were to be washed with Water, *Exod. xxix. 4.* to signify, that Jesus Christ should not go about the Work of his *Priestly Office*, with the Filth of Sin upon him, but was without Sin to appear as our High Priest in the Presence of his Father, to execute his Priestly Office there for our Advantage. *For such a High Priest became us, who is-holy, humble, and fled, separate from Sinners, and made higher than the Heavens,* Heb. vii. 26.

Eighthly, The High-Priests under the Law, before they went into the holy Place, were to be clothed with a curious Garment, a *Breast-plate*, and an *Ephod*, and a *Robe*, and a *broïdered Coat*, a *Mitre*, and a *Girdle*, and these were to be made of Gold, and Blue, and Purple, and Scarlet, and fine Linnen; and in his Garment and glorious Ornaments, there must be precious Stones, an on those Stones there must be written the Names of the Children of *Israel*, (read the 28th of *Exodus*) and all this was to signify what a glorious High-Priest Jesus Christ should be; and how in the Righteousness of God, he should appear before God as our High-Priest, to offer up the Sacrifice that was to be offered for our Salvation to God his Father; but I pass that:

Now I shall speak to his Office: The Office of the High Priest in general was two-fold. First, To offer the Sacrifice without the Camp. Secondly,

Secondly, To bring it within the Veil, that is, into the holiest of all, which did type our Heaven.

First, It was the Office of the Priest to offer the Sacrifice, and so did Jesus Christ, he did offer his own Body and Soul in Sacrifice. I say, HE did OFFER it, and not another, as it is written, *No Man taketh away my Life, but I lay it down of myself; I have Power to lay it down, and I have Power to take it up again,* John x. 17, 18. And again it is said, *When he (Jesus) had offered up one Sacrifice for Sins for ever, he sat down on the Right Hand of God,* Heb. x. 12.

Secondly, The Priests under the Law must offer up the Sacrifice that God had appointed, and none else, a compleat one without any Blemish; and so did our High Priest, where he saith, *Sacrifice and Offerings thou wouldest not, but a Body hast thou prepared me,* and that I will offer, *Heb. x. 5.*

Thirdly, The Priest was to take of the Ashes of the Sacrifice, and lay them in a clean Place: And this signifies, That the Body of Jesus after it had been offered, should be laid in *Joseph's Sepulchre*, as in a clean Place, where never any Man before was laid, *Levit. vi. 11.* compared with *John xix. 41, 42.*

This being one Part of his Office, and when this was done, then in the next Place he was to put on the glorious Garment, when he was to go into the Holiest, and take of the Blood, and carry it thither, &c. he was to put on the holy Garment, which signifieth the Righteousness of Jesus Christ.

Secondly, He was in this holy Garment, which hath in it the Stones, and in the Stones, the Names of the *Twelve Tribes* of the Children
of

of Israel to appear in the holy Places, *Exod. xxviii.* And thou shalt take two Onyx Stones, and shalt grave on them the Names of the Children of Israel. Six of their Names on one Stone, and the other six Names of the rest on the other Stone, according to their Birth, *Ver. 9, 10.* And this was to signify, that when Jesus Christ was to enter into the Holiest, then he was to bear the Names of his Elect in the Tables of his Heart, before the Throne of God, and the Mercy Seat, *Heb. xii. 23.*

Thirdly, With this he was to take off the Blood of the Sacrifices, and carry it into the Holiest of all, which was a Type of Heaven, and there was he to sprinkle the Mercy Seat; and this was to be done by the High-Priest only; to signify, that none but Jesus Christ must have this Office and Privilege to be the Peoples High-Priest to offer for them, *Heb. ix.* But into the Second went the High-Priest alone once every Year, yet not without Blood, which he offered for himself, and for the Errors of the People.

Fourthly, He was there to make an Atonement for the People with the Blood, sprinkling of it upon the Mercy Seat; but this must be done with much Incense, *Levit. xvi.* And Aaron shall bring the Bullock which is for a Sin-Offering for himself, and for his House, and shall kill the Bullock of the Sin-Offering, which is for himself. And he shall take a Censer full of burning Coals of Fire from off the Altar before the Lord, and his Hands full of sweet Incense beaten small, and bring it within the Veil: And he shall put the Incense upon the Fire before the Lord, that the Cloud of the Incense may cover the Mercy Seat, that is
upon

upon the Testimony, that he die not. And he shall take of the Blood of the Bullock, and sprinkle it upon the Mercy-Seat Eastward, and before the Mercy-Seat shall he sprinkle the Blood with his Finger seven times: And then he shall kill the Goat of the Sin-Offering, which is for the People, and bring his Blood within the Veil, and do with that Blood as he did with the Blood of the Bullock, and sprinkle it upon the Mercy Seat, and before the Mercy Seat, Verse 11, 12, 13, 14, 15. Now, this was for the Priest and the People; all which doth signify that Jesus Christ was, after his Death, to go into Heaven itself, of which this holy Place was a Figure, *Heb. ix.* and there to carry the Sacrifice that he offered upon the Cross, into the Presence of God, to obtain Mercy for the People in a Way of Justice. And in that he is said to have his Hands full of sweet Incense, it signifies, that Jesus Christ was to offer up his Sacrifice in the Presence of his Father, in a Way of Intercession and Prayers.

I might have branched these Things out into several Particulars, but I would be brief.

I say, therefore, the Office of the Priests was to carry the Blood into the holy Place, and there to present it before the Mercy Seat, with his Heart full of Intercessions for the People, for whom he was a Priest, *Luke i. 8, 9, 10, 11.* This is Jesus Christ's Work now in the Kingdom of Glory, to plead his own Blood, the Nature and Virtue of it, with a perpetual Intercession to the God of Mercy, on the Behalf of us poor miserable Sinners, *Heb. vii. 24.*

Now in the Intercession of this Jesus, which is part of his Priestly Office, there are these Things to be considered for our Comfort:

First,

First, There is a pleading of the Virtue of his Blood, for them that are already come in; that they may be kept from the Evils of *Heresies, Delusions, Temptations, Pleasures, Profits*, or any thing of this World, which may be too hard for them. Father, *I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the World* (saith Christ) *but that thou shouldest keep them from the Evil*, John xvii. 15.

Secondly, In Case the Devil should aspire up in, to the Presence of God, to accuse any of the poor Saints, and to plead their Black-sins against them, as he will do if he can; then there is Jesus, our Lord Jesus, ready in the Court of Heaven, at the Right Hand of God, to plead the Virtue of his Blood, not only for the great and general Satisfaction that he did give when he was on the Cross, but also the Virtue that is in it now, for the cleansing, and fresh purging of his poor Saints, under their several Temptations and Infirmities; as saith the Apostle, *For if when we were Enemies, we were reconciled to God, by the Death of his Son; much more then being reconciled, we shall be saved by his Life*; that is, by his Intercession, Rom. v. 10.

Thirdly, The maintaining of Grace, also, is by *Jesus Christ's* Intercession, being the second Part of his Priestly Office. O! Had we not a Jesus at the Right Hand of God, making Intercession for us, and to convey fresh Supplies of Grace into us, through the Virtue of his Blood, being pleaded at God's Right Hand; how soon would it be with us, as it is with those for whom he prays not at all? *John* xvii. 9. But the Reason why thou standest while others fall, the Reason why thou goest through the many Temptations

of the World, and shakest them off from thee while others are ensnared, and intangled therein ; it is because thou hast an *interceding Jesus*. *I have prayed (saith he) that thy Faith fail not, Luke xxii.*

Fourthly, It is partly by the Virtue of Christ's Intercession that the Elect are brought in ; there are many that are come to Christ, which are not yet brought into Christ ; and it is one part of his Work to pray for their Salvation too, *Neither pray I for these alone, but for all those that shall believe (tho' as yet they do not believe) on me (but that they may believe) thro' their Word, John xvii. 20.* And let me tell thee, Soul, for thy Comfort, who art a coming in to Christ, *panting and sighing,* as if thy Heart would break ; I tell thee, Soul, thou wouldst never have come to Christ, if he had not first by the Virtue of his Blood and Intercession, sent into thy Heart an earnest Desire after Christ ; and let me tell thee also, that it is his Business to make Intercession for thee ; not only that thou mightest come in, but that thou mightest be preserved, when thou art come in. Compare *Heb. vii. 25. Rom. viii. 33, 34, 35, &c.*

Fifthly, It is by the Intercession of Christ, that the Infirmities of the Saints, in their holy Duties are forgiven : Alas, if it was not for the Priestly Office of Christ Jesus, the Prayers, Alms, and other Duties of the Saints, might be rejected, because of the Sin that is in them ; but Jesus being our High Priest, he is ready to take away the Iniquities of our holy Things, perfuming our Prayers with the Glory of his own Perfections ; and therefore it is, that there is no Answer given to the Saints Prayers, and also Acceptance of their holy

holy Duties, Rev. viii. 3; 4. But *Christ* being come an *High-Priest* of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect *Tabernacle*, not made with *Hands* that is to say, not of this *Building*. Neither by the *Blood* of *Goats* and *Calves*; but by his own *Blood* he entred in once into the holy *Place*, having obtained eternal *Redemption* for us. For if the *Blood* of *Bulls* and *Goats*, and the *Ashes* of an *Heifer* sprinkling the unclean, sanctifyeth to the purifying of the *Flesh*. How much more shall the *Blood* of *Christ*, who thro' the eternal *Spirit*, offered himself without *Spot* to God, purge your *Consciences* from dead *Works* to serve the *Living God*? And for this Cause he is the *Mediator* of the *New Testament* (or *Covenant*) that by means of *Death*, for the *Redemption* of the *Transgressors* that were under the first *Testament*, they which are called (notwithstanding all their *Sins*) might receive the *Promise* of eternal *Inheritance*, Heb. ix. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15.

The third thing now to be spoken to, it is to shew, where, and how *Jesus Christ* out-went, and goes beyond these *Priests* in all their *Qualifications* and *Offices*, for the *Comfort* of poor *Saints*.

1st, They that were called to the *Priesthood* under the *Law*, were but *Men*; but he is both *God* and *Man*, Heb. vii. 28, 3.

2. Their *Qualifications* were in them in a very scanty *Way*; but *Jesus* was every *Way* qualified in an infinite and full *Way*.

3. They were consecrated but for a *time*, Heb. vii. 23. but he for evermore, ver. 24.

4. They were made without an *Oath*, ver. 20, 21. but he with an *Oath*.

5. They as *Servants*; but he as a *Son*, Heb. iii. 6.

6. Their

6. Their Garments were but such as could be made with Hand, *Ex. xxviii.* but his the very righteousness of God, *Rom. iii. 22.*
7. Their Offerings were but the Body and Blood of Beasts, and such like, *Phil. iii. 8.* but his Offering was his own Body and Soul, *Heb. ix. 12, 13.* *chap. x. 4, 5. Isa. liii. 10. Heb. x. 5.*
8. Those were at best but a Shadow or Type, *Ver. 1.* but he the very Substance and End of all those Ceremonies, *Heb. ix. 10, 11.*
9. Their holy Place was but made by such, *Heb. ix. 24.* but his, or that which Jesus is entered, is into *Heaven itself*, *Heb. v. 2, 3.*
10. When they went to offer their Sacrifice, they were forced to offer for themselves, as Men compassed about with Infirmary, *Heb. vii. 26.* but the Holy, harmless, *Heb. x. 11.* who did never commit the least Transgression, *Heb. vii. 26.*
11. They, when they went in to offer, were in to do it standing, *Heb. x.* to signify, that God had no Satisfaction therein; but he, *when he had offered one Sacrifice for Sin, for ever sat down on the Right Hand of God*, *Jer. xii.* to signify, that God was very well pleased with his Offering.
12. They were fain to offer oftentimes the Sacrifice that could never take away Sin; but he by one Offering hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified, *Heb. x. 11, 14.*
13. Their Sacrifices at the best could but serve for the cleansing of the Flesh, *Heb. ix. 13.* but his for cleansing both Body and Soul: The Blood of Jesus Christ doth purge the Conscience from dead Works to live a holy Life, *Verse 14.*
14. Those High Priests could not offer but once a Year in the holiest of all, *Ver. 7.* but our High-

High-Priest, he ever liveth to make Intercession for us, *Heb. vii. 24, 25.*

15. Those High-Priests, notwithstanding they were Priests, they were not always to wear their holy Garments; but Jesus never puts them off of him, but is in them always.

16. Those High-Priests, Death would be too hard for them, *Heb. vii. 21, 23.* but our High-Priest hath vanquished and overcome that cruel Enemy of ours, *Heb. ii. 15.* and brought Life and Immortality to Light, through the glorious Gospel, *2 Tim. i. 10.*

17. Those High-Priests were not able to save themselves; but this is able to save himself, and all that come to God by him, *Heb. vii. 25.*

18. Those High-Priests Blood could not do away Sin; but the Blood of Jesus Christ, who is our High-Priest, *cleanseth us from all Sin*, *1 John i. 7.*

19. Those High-Priests some times by Sin, caused God to reject their Sacrifices; but this High-Priest *doth always the Things that please him.*

20. Those High-Priests could never convey the Spirit by Virtue of their Sacrifices or Office; but this High-Priest, our Lord Jesus, he can, and doth give all the Gifts and Graces that are given to the Sons of Men.

21. Those High-Priests could never by their Sacrifices bring the Soul of any Sinner to Glory, by Virtue of it self; but Jesus hath by one Offering (as I said before) perfected for ever those that he did die for. Thus in brief I have shewed in some Particulars, how, and wherein Jesus our High-Priest doth go beyond those High-Priests:

Christ the Fore-runner of the Saints. 129

riests; and many more without Question might be mentioned, but I forbear.

A fifth Office of Christ in Reference to the second Covenant, it was that he should be the *Fore-runner*, again to Heaven, before his Saints, that were to follow after. First, he strikes Hands in the Covenant. Secondly, he stands bound as a Surety, to see every thing in the Covenant accomplished, that was to be done on his Part; then he brings the Message from Heaven to the World; and before he goeth back, he offereth himself for the same Sins that he agreed to suffer for; and soon as this was done, he goeth Post-haste to Heaven again; not only to exercise the second Part of his Priestly-Office, but as our *Fore-runner*, to take Possession for us, even into Heaven itself, as you may see, *Heb. vi. 20*, where it is said, *Whither the Fore-runner is for us entred.*

First, He is run before to open Heaven Gates: *Be ye open ye everlasting Doors, that the King of Glory may enter in.*

Secondly, He is run before to take Possession of Glory in our Natures for us.

Thirdly, He is run before to prepare us our Places against we come after, *I go to prepare a Place for you, John xiv. 1, 2, 3.*

Fourthly, He is run thither to make the Way easy, in that he hath first trodden the Path himself.

Fifthly, He is run thither to receive Gifts for us. All Spiritual and Heavenly Gifts

had been kept from us, had not Christ so soon as the time appointed was come, run back to the Kingdom of Glory to receive them for us.

But I cannot stand to enlarge up-

These Things have I spoken to shew you, that Saints are under Grace.

130 *Christ compleatly fulfilled the*

on these glorious Things, the Lord enlarge them upon your Hearts by Meditation.

Here now I might begin to speak of his prophetic and kingly Office, and the Privileges that do, and shall come thereby, but that I fear I shall be too tedious; therefore at this Time I shall pass by them. Thus you may see how the Covenant of Grace doth run, and with whom it was made, and also what were the Conditions thereof.

Now then, this Grace, this everlasting Grace of God comes to be free to us thro' the Satisfaction (according to the Conditions) given by another for us; for tho' it be free, and freely given to us yet the obtaining of it did cost our *Head*, or *Publick-man*, a very dear Price (1 Cor. vi. 20. *For ye are bought with a Price, even the precious Blood of Christ* (1 Pet. i. 9.) So it is by another, I say, not by us; yet it is as sure made over to us, even to so many of us as do, or shall believe, as if we had done it, and obtained the Grace of God ourselves. Nay, surer; for consider, I say, this Grace is free to us, and comes upon a clear Score, by Virtue of the Labour and Purchase of another for us; mark that which is obtained by another for us, is not obtained for us by ourselves: Now, *But Christ hath* (Heb. ix. 12.) *not by the Blood of Goats and Calves obtained eternal Redemption for us* (which were things offered by Men under the Law) *but by his own Blood* (meaning Christ's) *he enter'd into the holy Place, having obtained eternal Redemption for us.*

Secondly, It comes to be *unchangeable* through the Perfection of that Satisfaction that was given to God through the Son of Mary, for us; for whatever the Divine, Infinite, and Eternal Justice

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of God did call for it at the Hands of Man, if ever
he intended to be a Partaker of the Grace of God,
his Jesus, this one Man, this publick Person, did
compleatly give a Satisfaction to it, even so effec-
tually ; which caused God not only to say, I am
pleased, but, *I am well pleased*, Mat. iii. 17. Com-
pleatly and sufficiently satisfied with thee on their
Behalf ; for so you must understand it : Mark
there these following Words, *And having made
Peace* (or compleatly made up the Difference)
*through the Blood of his Cross by him, to reconcile all
things unto himself ; by him I say, whether they be
things in Earth, or things in Heaven, and you who
were sometimes alienated, and Enemies in your Mind
by wicked Works ; yet now hath he reconciled, how,
in the Body of his Flesh, through Death, to present
you holy ; mark, holy and unblameable, and unre-
provable in his Sight*, Colos. i. 21, 22, 23. And
thus it is Grace, unchangeable Grace to us ; be-
cause it was obtained, yea, compleatly obtained
for us, by Jesus Christ, God-man.

Object. But, some may say, how was it possible
that one Man Jesus, by one Offering, should so
compleatly obtain and bring in unchangeable Grace
for such an innumerable Company of Sinners as
are to be saved ?

Answer First, In that he was every Way fitted
for such a Work. And, Secondly, In that, as I
said before, he did every Way compleatly satisfy
that which was offended by our Disobedience to
the former Covenant. And for the clearing of
this,

First, Consider, Was it Man that had offend-
ed? He was Man that gave the Satisfaction. *For
as by Man came Death, even so also by Man did
come*

come the Resurrection from the Dead, 1 Cor. xv. 21.

Secondly, Was it God that was offended? He was God that did give a Satisfaction. *To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given. — And his Name shall be called the mighty God (Isa. ix. 6.) He thought it no Robbery to be equal with God; but (for our Sakes, 2 Cor. viii. 9.) he made himself of no Reputation, &c. Phil. ii. 5, 6, 7.*

Thirdly, For the further clearing of this, to shew you that in every thing he was rightly qualified for this great Work; see what God himself saith of him; he calls him in the first Place Man, and secondly he owns him to be his Fellow, saying, *Awake O Sword against my Shepherd, against the Man; mark, the Man that is my Fellow, saith the Lord of Hosts, Zech. xiii. 7.*

So that now let divine and infinite Justice turn itself which Way it will, it finds one that can tell how to match it; for if it say, I will require the Satisfaction of Man, here is a Man to satisfy its cry; but if it say, But I am an infinite God, and must and will have an infinite Satisfaction: Here is one also that is Infinite, even Fellow with God; Fellow in his Essence and Being, *Prov. viii. 23.* Fellow in his Power and Strength, *1 Cor. i. 24.* Fellow in his Wisdom, *see again the same Verse.* Fellow in his Mercy and Grace, *Tit. ii. 10.* compared with *Verse 11.* together with the rest of the Attributes of God; so that, I say, let Justice turn itself which Way it will, here is a compleat Person to give a compleat Satisfaction; thus much of the Fitness of the Person.

Secondly, For the Compleatness of the Satisfaction given by him for us. And that is discovered in these Particulars.

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First, Doth Justice call for the Blood of that Nature that sinned? Here is the Heart's Blood of Jesus Christ. *We have Redemption through his Blood*, Eph. i. 14. 1 Pet. i. 18, 19. Zech. ix. 10, 11.

2. Doth Justice say, that this Blood, if it be not the Blood of one that is really, and naturally God, it will not give Satisfaction to infinite Justice; then here is God, *purchasing his Church with his own Blood*, Acts xx. 28.

3. Doth Justice say, that it must not only have Satisfaction for Sinners; but they that are saved must be also washed and sanctified with this Blood? Then here is he that so loved us, that he *washed us from our Sins in his own Blood*, Rev. i. 5.

4. Is there to be a Righteousness to cloth them with, that are to be presented before Divine Justice? Then here is the Righteousness of Christ, which is, *even the Righteousness of God by Faith*, Rom. iii. 22. Phil. iii. 8, 9, 10.

5. Is there any Sins now that will fly upon this Saviour, like so many Lions, or raging Devils, if he take in hand to redeem Man will be content to bear them all himself alone, even in his own Body upon the Tree? 1 Pet. ii. 24.

6. Is there any Law now that will curse, and condemn this Saviour for standing in our Persons, to give Satisfaction to God for the Transgression of Man? He will be willing to be cursed, yea, to be made a Curse for Sinners, rather than they shall be cursed and damned themselves, Gal. iii. 13.

7. Must the great and glorious God, whose Eyes are so pure that he cannot behold Iniquity: I say, must he not only have the Blood, but the

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very Life of him that will take in hand to be the Deliverer and Saviour of us poor miserable Sinners? he is *willing to lay down his Life for his Sheep*, John x. 11.

8. Must he not only die a natural Death, but must his Soul descend into Hell (tho' it should not be left there?) he will suffer that also, *Psal. xvi. 10.* and *Acts ii. 3.*

9. Must he not only be buried, but rise again from the Dead, and overcome Death, that he might be the First Fruits to God of them that sleep, which shall be saved? He will be buried, and also through the Strength of his God-head, he will raise himself out of the Grave, though Death hold him ever so fast, and the *Jews* lay ever such a great Stone upon the Mouth of the Sepulchre, and seal it ever so fast, *1 Cor. xv. 2.* *Luke xxiv. 34.*

10. Must he carry that Body into the Presence of his Father, to take Possession of Heaven, *Heb. ix. 24.* *John xiv. 2, 3.* And must he appear there as a Priest, (*Heb. vi. 20.*) as *Fore-runner*, (ver. the same) as an *Advocate* (*1 John ii. 1, 2.*) as *Prophet*, as a *Treasure-House*, as an *Interceder*, and *Pleader* of the *Causes* of his *People*? He will be all these, and much more; to the end, the Grace of God by Faith in Jesus Christ, might be made surer to all the Seed. *Who then can condemn?* It is God that justifieth; because Christ hath died, yea, rather that is risen again. *Who* (now seeing all this is so effectually done) *shall lay any thing, the least thing?* Who can find the least Flaw, the least Wrinkle, the least Defect or Imperfection in this glorious Satisfaction?

Object.

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Object. But is it possible that he should so soon give infinite Justice a Satisfaction, a compleat Satisfaction? For the eternal God doth require an eternal lying under the Curse; to the End, he may be eternally satisfied.

Ans. Indeed that which is infinite, must have an Eternity to satisfy God in; that is, they that fall into the Prison and Pit of utter Darkness, must be there to all Eternity, to the End the Justice of God may have its full Blow at them. But now he that I am speaking of, is *God* (*Isa. ix. 6. 2. Tim. i. 16. Heb. i. 8, 9. Phil. ii. 4, 5, 6.*) and so is infinite: Now he which is true God, is able to give in as little a time an infinite Satisfaction, as *Adam* was in giving the Dissatisfaction. *Adam* himself might have given Satisfaction for himself as soon as *Christ*, had he been very God, as *Jesus Christ* was: For the Reason why the Posterity of *Adam*, even so many of them as fall short of Life, must lie broiling in Hell to all Eternity, is this: They are not able to give the Justice of God Satisfaction, they being not infinite, as aforesaid. But *Christ* (that is *God-man*) being become an *High-Priest* (that is to offer and give Satisfaction) of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect *Tabernacle*, not made with *Hands*, that is to say, not of this Building: Neither by the *Blood of Goats and Calves*, but by his own; mark you that, but by his own *Blood* he hath entered into the holy Place, having (already) obtained eternal Redemption for us: But how? For if the *Blood of Bulls and Goats*, and the *Ashes of an Heifer* sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purging of the *Flesh*, how much more shall the *Blood of Christ*, who through the eternal Spirit (who through the Power and Virtue of his infinite God-head)

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offered himself without Spot to God, purge your Consciences from dead Works, to serve the Living God? And for this Cause (that is, for that he is God as well as Man, and so able to give Justice an infinite Satisfaction; therefore) he is the Mediator of the New Testament, that by means of Death for the Redemption of the Transgressions that were under the first Testament, they which are called might receive the Promise of eternal Inheritance, Heb. ix. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15. as I said before.

Object. This is much; but is God contented with this? Is he satisfied now in the Behalf of Sinners by this Man's thus suffering? If he is, then how doth it appear?

Answer. It is evident, yea, wonderful evident, that this hath pleased him to the full, as appeareth by these following Demonstrations.

First, In that God did admit him into his Presence; yea, receive him with Joy and Musick, even with the Sound of the *Trumpet* at his Ascension into Heaven (Ps. xlvii. 5.) and Christ makes it an Argument to his Children, that *his Righteousness* was sufficient, in that he went to his Father, and they saw him no more (*John xvi. 10.*) *Of Righteousness*, saith he, *because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more*: As if he had said, My Spirit shall shew to the World, that I have brought in a sufficient Righteousness to justify Sinners withal, that when I go to appear in the Presence of my Father on their Behalf, he shall give me Entertainment, and not throw me down from Heaven, because I did not do it sufficiently.

Again, If you consider the high Esteem that God the Father doth set on the Death of his Son,

you

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you will find that he hath received good Content thereby. When the Lord Jesus by way of Complaint told his Father, that he and his Merits were not valued to the Worth ; his Father answered, *It is a light thing that I should give thee, O my Servant, to bring Jacob again ; I will also give thee for a Light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be for Salvation unto the Ends of the Earth, Isa. xlix. 1, to 6.* As if the Lord had said, My Son, I do value thy Death at a higher Rate, than that thou shouldest save the Tribes of *Israel* only ; behold the Gentiles, the barbarous Heathens, they also shall be brought in as the Price of thy Blood. It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my Servant (only) to bring or redeem the Tribes of *Jacob*, and to restore the preserved of *Israel* ; I will give thee for a Light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my Salvation to the Ends of the Earth.

Again, You may see it also by the Carriage of God the Father to all the great Sinners to whom Mercy was proffered. We do not find that God maketh any Objection against them that come to him for the Pardon of their Sins ; because he did want a Satisfaction suitable to the Greatness of their Sins. There was *Manasseh*, who was one that burnt his Children in the Fire to the Devil, *2 Chron. xxxiii. 1 to 12.* that used Witchcraft, that used to worship the Host of Heaven, that turned his Back on the Word that God sent unto him ; nay, that did worse than the very Heathen, that God cast out before the Children of *Israel*. Also those that are spoken of *Acts xix. 19.* that did spend so much Time in Conjurat[i]on, and the like, *Acts viii.* (for such I judge they were) that when they came to burn their Books,

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they counted the Price thereof to be fifty thousand Pieces of Silver. *Simon Magus* also that was a Sorcerer, and bewitched the whole City, yet he had Mercy proffered to him once again : I say, it was not the greatness of the Sins of these Sinners ; no, nor of an innumerable Company of others that made God at all object against the Salvation of their Souls, which Justice would have constrained him to, had he not had Satisfaction sufficient, by the Blood of the Lord Jesus. Nay further, I do find that because God the Father, would not have the Merits of his Son to be undervalued ; I say, he doth therefore freely by his Consent, let Mercy be proffered to the greatest Sinners, in the first Place, for the *Jews*, that were the worst of Men in that Day for Blasphemy against the Gospel ; yet the Apostle proffered Mercy to them in the first Place. *It is necessary (saith he) that the Word of God should first have been spoken to you, Acts xiii. 46. Acts iii. 26.* And Christ gave them Commission so to do ; for saith he, *Let Repentance and Remission of Sins be preached in my Name among all Nations, and begin ; mark that, begin at Jerusalem, Luke xxiv. 47.* Let them that but the other Day had their Hands up to the Elbows in my Heart's Blood, have the first Proffer of my Mercy. And saith *Paul, For this Cause I obtained Mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all long-suffering for a Pattern to them that should hereafter believe on him to Life everlasting, 1 Tim. xv. 16.* As the Apostle saith, those Sinners that were dead, possessed with the Devil, and the Children of Wrath he hath quickned, delivered, and saved, *Ephes. ii. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.* that he might even in the very Ages to come, shew forth the exceeding Riches

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of his Grace in his Kindness towards us (and that) through Jesus Christ.

Secondly, It is evident that that which this Man did as a common Person, he did it compleatly and satisfactorily, as appears by the openness (if I may so call it) which was in the Heart of God to him at his Resurrection and Ascension. *Ask of me* (saith he) *and I will give thee the (very) Heathen for thine Inheritance, and the uttermost Parts of the Earth for thy Possession*, Psal. ii. 8. And this was at his Resurrection, *Acts* xiii. 33. Whereas, tho' he had asked, yet if he had not given a full and compleat Satisfaction, Justice would not have given him any thing; for Justice, the Justice of God is so pure, that if it be not compleatly satisfied in ever Particular, it giveth nothing but Curses, *Gal.* iii. 10.

Thirdly, It is yet far more evident, that he hath indeed pleased God in the Behalf of Sinners, in that God hath given him Gifts to distribute to Sinners, yea the worst of Sinners, as a Fruit of Satisfaction, and that at his Ascension (*Pf.* lxxviii. 18.) Christ hath so satisfied God, that he hath given him all the Treasures both of Heaven and Earth to dispose of as he seeth good; he hath so pleased God that he hath given him a Name above every Name; a Scepter above every Scepter; a Crown above every Crown; a Kingdom above every Kingdom, *Phil.* xxix. *Rev.* xix. 16. he hath given him the highest Place in Heaven, even his own *Right Hand*; he hath given him all the Power of Heaven and Earth, and under the Earth in his *own Hand*, to bind whom he pleaseth, and to set free whom he thinks meet; he hath, in a Word, such an high Esteem in the Eyes of his Father, that he hath put into his Hand all

things that are for the Profit of his People, both in this World, and that which is to come; and all this as the Fruit of his Faithfulness in doing of his Work, as the Mediator of the New Covenant, *Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led Captivity Captive, thou hast received Gifts; mark, thou hast received them, for Men, even for the (worst of Men, the) Rebellious also:* And hath sent forth some, being furnished with these Gifts; some I say, *For the Work of the Ministry,* to the edifying of them that are already called, and also for the calling in of all those for whom he covenanted with his Father, *Till all come in the Unity of Faith,* &c. *Eph. iv. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.*

Fourthly, It doth still appear far more evident: For will you hear what the Father himself saith for the shewing of his Well-pleasedness, in these two Particulars. First, In that he bids poor Souls to hear, and to do as Christ would have them, *Mat. iii. 17. Luke ix. 35.* Secondly, In that he resolves to make them that turn their Backs upon him, that dishonour him, (which is done in a very great Measure by those that lay aside his Merits done by himself for Justification) I say, he hath resolved to make them his *Foot-stool*; where he saith, *Sit thou at my Right Hand, until I make thine Enemies my Foot-stool.* Are they Enemies to thee, saith God? I will be even with them. Do they slight thy Merits? Do they slight thy Groans, thy Tears, thy Blood, thy Death, thy Resurrection, and Intercession, thy second coming again in heavenly Glory? I will tear them, and rend them; I'll make them as Mire in the Streets; I will make thy Enemies thy *Foot-stool* (*Psal. cx. 1. Mat.*

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xxii. 44. *Heb. i. 13. Chap. x. 15.*) Aye, saith he, *And thou shalt dash them in pieces like a Potter's Vessel, Psal. ii. 9.* Look to it you that slight the Merits of the Blood of Christ.

Fifthly, Again further; yet God will make all the World to know, that he hath been, and is well pleased in his Son, in that God hath given (and will make it appear he hath given) the World to come into his Hand, *Heb. ii.* And that he shall raise the Dead, bring them before his Judgment Seat, execute Judgment upon them, which he pleaseth to execute Judgment on to their Damnation; and to receive them to eternal Life whom he doth favour, even so many as shall be found to believe in his Name and Merits (*John v. 26, 27, 28.*) *For as the Father hath Life in himself; so hath he given to the Son Life in himself; and he hath given him Authority to execute Judgment also; because he is the Son of Man—For the Hour is coming, that all that are in the Graves shall hear his Voice, and shall come forth: they that have done Good, unto the Resurrection of Life, and they that have done Evil, unto the Resurrection of Damnation.* Aye, and the worst Enemy that Christ hath now, shall come at that Day with a pale Face, with a quaking Heart, and bended Knees, trembling before him, confessing the Glory of his Merits, and the Virtue there was in them to save, *to the Glory of God the Father, Rom. xiv. 11. Phil. ii. 9, 10, 11.*

Much more might be added to discover the glorious Perfection of this Man's Satisfaction: But for you that desire to be further satisfied concerning this, search the Scriptures, and beg of God to give you Faith and Understanding therein; and as for you that slight these Things,

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and continue so doing, God hath another Way to take with you, even to dash you in Pieces like a Potter's Vessel : For this hath Christ received of his Father to do unto you, *Rev. ii. 27.*

Thus I have shewed you in particular, that the Covenant of the Grace of God is free and unchangeable to Men ; that is, in that it hath been obtained for Men, and that perfectly, to the satisfying of Justice, and taking all Things out of the Way that were any ways an Hindrance to our Salvation, *Col. ii. 14.*

The second Thing for the discovering of this Freeness and Constancy of the Covenant of the Grace of God, it is manifested thus :

First, Whatsoever any Man hath of the Grace of God, he hath it as a *free Gift* of God through Christ Jesus the Mediator of this Covenant, even when they are in a State of Enmity to him, (mark that, *Rom. v. 8, 9. Col. i. 21, 22.*) whether it be Christ as the *Foundation Stone*, or Faith to lay hold on him, *Eph. xxviii.* For by Grace you are saved through Faith, and not of yourselves (not for any thing in you, or done by you for the purchasing of it) but it is the *Free Gift* of God. And that bestowed on you, even when ye were dead in *Trespases and Sins*, *Eph. ii. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.* Nay, if thou hast so much as one Desire that is right, it is the Gift of God ; for of our selves, saith the Apostle, *we are not able to speak a good Word, or think a good Thought,* *2 Cor. iii. 5.*

Was it not Grace, *absolute Grace*, that God made Promise to *Adam* after his Transgressions ? *Gen. iii. 5.*

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Was it not free Grace in God to save such a Wretch as *Manasseh* was, who used Inchantments, Witchcraft, burnt his Children in the Fire, and wrought much evil? 2 *Chron.* xxxiii.

Was it not free Grace to save such as those were that are spoken of in the xvith of *Ezekiel*, which no Eye pitied?

Was it not free Grace for Christ to give *Peter* a loving Look after he had cursed and swore, and denied him?

Was it not free Grace that met *Paul* when he was going to *Damascus* to prosecute, which converted him, and made him a Vessel of Mercy?

And what shall I say of such that are spoken of in 1 *Cor.* vi. 9, 10. speaking there of *Fornicators, Idolators, Adulterers, Effeminate, Abusers of themselves with Mankind, Thieves, Covetous, Revilers, Drunkards, Extortioners*, the basest of Sinners in the World, and yet were washed, and yet were justified, was it not freely by Grace? O Saints! you that are in Heaven cry out, We came hither by Grace; and you that are on Earth, I am sure you cry, if ever we do go thither, it must be freely by Grace.

Secondly, In the next Place it appears to be unchangeable in this. First, Because Justice being once satisfied, doth not use to call for the Debt again: No, let ever such a Sinner come to Jesus Christ, and so to God by him; and Justice instead of speaking against the Salvation of that Sinner, it will say, I am just, as well as faithful, to forgive him his Sins, 1 *John* i. 9. When Justice itself is pleased with a Man, and speaks on his Side, instead of speaking against him, we may well cry out, *Who shall condemn?*

144 *Christ compleatly fulfilled, &c.*

2. Because there is no Law to come in against the Sinner that believes in Jesus Christ; for he is not under that, and that by Right comes in against none, but those that are under it: But Believers are not under that, that is not their Lord, therefore hath nothing to do with them; and besides Christ's Blood hath not only taken away the Curse thereof, but also he hath in his own Person compleatly fulfilled it as a Publick Person in our stead, *Rom. viii. 1, 2, 3, 4.*

The Devil that accused them is destroyed, *Heb. ii. 14, 15.*

4. *Death* and the *Grave*, and *Hell* are overcome, *1 Cor. xv. 55. Hosea xiii. 14.*

5. *Sin*, that great Enemy of *Man's* Salvation, that is washed away, *Rev. i. 5.*

6. The Righteousness of God is put upon them that believe, and given to them, and they are found in it, *Phil. iii. 8, 9, 10. Rom. iii. 22.*

7. Christ is always in Heaven to plead for them, and to prepare a Place for them, *Heb. vii. 24. John xiv. 1, 2, 3, 4.*

8. He hath not only promised that he will not leave us, nor forsake us; but he hath also sworn to fulfil his Promise. O rich Grace! free Grace! Lord, who desired thee to promise? Who compelled thee to swear? We use to take honest Men upon their bare Words; but God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the Heirs of Promise the Immutability of his Counsel (hath) confirmed it by an Oath, that by two immutable Things (his Promise and his Oath) in which it is impossible for God to lye (or break either of them) we might have strong Consolation, who have fled for Refuge to
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lay hold on the Hope set before us (Heb. vi. 13, 17, 18. I'll warrant you God will never break his Oath; therefore we may well have good ground to hope from such a good Foundation as this, that God will never leave us indeed.

Again, Thirdly, Not only thus, but, First, God hath begotten Believers again to himself, to be his adopted and accepted Children, in and through the Lord Jesus, 1 Pet. i. 3.

Secondly, God hath prepared a Kingdom for them, before the Foundation of the World, thro' Jesus Christ, Mat. xxv.

Thirdly, He hath given them an Earnest of their Happiness, while they live here in this World (Eph. i. 13, 14. After ye believed you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of Promise,

These Things are more fully laid down in that Part of the Book which containeth the Discourse of the Privileges of the New Covenant.

which is the Earnest of our Inheritance, until the Redemption of the purchased Possession to the Praise of his Glory, and that through this Jesus.

Fourthly, If his Children sin thro' Weakness, or by sudden Temptation; they confessing of it, he willingly forgives and heals all their Wounds, reneweth his Love towards them, waits to do them good, casteth their Sins into the Depths of the Sea, and all this freely, without any Work done by Men as Men. Not for our own sakes do I do this, O House of Israel, be it known unto you, saith the Lord, Ezek. xxxvi. 22, 23. but wholly and alone by the Blood of Jesus.

Fifthly, In a Word, if you would see it altogether, God's Love was the Cause why Jesus Christ was sent to bleed for Sinners. Jesus Christ's bleeding,

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bleeding stops the Cries of Divine Justice: God looks upon them as compleat in him, gives them to him as by right of Purchase. Jesus ever lives to pray for them that are thus given unto him. God sends his holy *Spirit* into them, to reveal this to them; sends his *Angels* to minister for them; and all this by Virtue of an everlasting Covenant between the Father and the Son. *Thrice happy are the People that are in such a Case.*

Nay, further, he hath made them *Brethren* with Jesus Christ, *Members* of his *Flesh*, and of his *Bones*, the *Spouse* of this Lord Jesus; and all to shew you how dearly, how really, how constantly he loveth us, who by the Faith of his Operation hath laid hold upon him.

I shall now lay down a few Arguments for the superabundant Clearing of it, and afterwards answer two or three Objections that may be made against it, and so I shall fall upon the next Thing.

First, God loves the Saints, as he loves Jesus Christ; and God loves Jesus Christ with an eternal Love; therefore the Saints also with the same, *Thou hast loved them, as thou hast loved me,* John xvii. 23.

Secondly, That Love which is God himself, must needs be everlasting Love: And that is the Love wherewith God hath Loved his Saints in Christ Jesus; therefore his Love towards his Children in Christ must needs be an everlasting Love: There is none dare say, that the Love of God is mixed with a created Mixture; if

You must not understand that Love in God is a Passion as it is in us; but the Love of God is the very Essence or Nature of God, John iv. 16.

not

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not, then it must needs be himself, 1 *John* iv. 16.

Thirdly, That Love which is always pitched upon us, in an Object as holy as God, must needs be an everlasting Love. Now, the Love of God was, and is pitched upon us, through an Object as holy as God himself, even our Lord Jesus; therefore it must needs be unchangeable.

Fourthly, If he with whom the Covenant of Grace was made, did in every Thing and Condition, do, even what the Lord could desire or require of him, that his Love might be extended to us, and that for ever; then his Love must needs be an everlasting Love, seeing every thing required of us, was compleatly accomplished for us by him: And all this hath our Lord Jesus done, and that most gloriously, even on our Behalf; therefore it must needs be a Love that lasts for ever and ever.

Fifthly, If God hath declared himself to be the God that changeth not, and hath sworn to be immutable in his Promise, then surely he will be unchangeable: And he hath done so; therefore it is impossible for God to lye; and so for his eternal Love to be unchangeable (*Heb.* vi. 13, 14, 17, 18.) Here is an Argument of the Spirit's own making! Who can contradict it? If any object, and say, But still it is upon the Condition of believing; I answer, The Condition also is his own free Gift, and not a Qualification arising from the Stock of Nature (*Eph.* ii. 8. *Phil.* i. 28, 29.) So that here is the Love unchangeable; here is also the Condition given by him whose Love is unchangeable, which may serve yet further for a strong Argument, that God will have his

148 *The Opposers answered.*

his Love unchangeable. Sinner, this is better felt and enjoyed, than talked of.

Object. But if this Love of God be unchangeable in itself, yet it is not unchangeably set upon the Saints, unless they behdve themselves the better.

Answ. As God's Love at the first was bestowed upon the Saints, without any thing foreseen by the Lord in them, as done by them (*Deut. ix. 4, 5, 6.*) So he goeth on with the same, saying, *I will never leave thee nor forsake thee*, Heb. xiii. 5.

Object. But how cometh it to pass then that many fall off again, from the Grace of the Gospel, after a Profession of it for some time, some to Delusions, and some to their open Sins again?

Answ. They are fallen away, not from the everlasting Love of God to them; but from the Profession of the Love of God to them: Men may profess that God loves them, when there is no such Matter, and that they are the Children of God, when the Devil is their Father; (as it is in *John viii. 40 to 44.*) Therefore they that do finally fall away from a Profession of the Grace of the Gospel: It is first, Because they are *Bastards* and not *Sons*. Secondly, Because as they are not *Sons*, so God suffereth them to fall, to make it appear that they are not *Sons*, not of the Household of God. *They went out from us, for they were not of us; for if they had been of us, no doubt (mark that) no doubt (saith he) they would have continued with us; but they went out from us, that it might be made manifest that they were not at all of us* (1 John ii. 19.) And tho' *Hymenæus* and *Philetus* do throw themselves headlong to Hell, nevertheless the Foundation of God standeth sure, having this Seal, the Lord knoweth them that are his, 2 Tim. ii. 17, 18, 19.

Object.

Object. But the Scripture saith, that there are some that had Faith, yet lost it, and have made Shipwreck of it: Now God loves no longer than they believe, as is evident: *For he that believes not, shall be damned.* So then, if some may have Faith, and yet lose it, and so lose the Love of God, because they have lost their Faith, it is evident that God's Love is not so immutable as you say it is to every one that believeth.

Ans. There is more Sorts of Faith than one, that is spoken of in Scripture.

First, There is a Faith that Men may have, and yet be nothing, none of the Saints of God, (2 Cor. xiii. 1, 2, 3, 4.) and yet may do great things therewith.

2. There is a Faith that was wrought meerly by the Operation of the Miracles that were done in those Days by Christ and his Followers: *And many of the People believed on him.* How came they by their Faith? Why, by the Operations of the Miracles that he did among them; for said they, *When Christ cometh, will he do more Miracles than this Man hath done?* The great thing that wrought their Faith in them, was only by seeing the Miracles that he did (John vii. 31. John ii. 23.) which is not that saving Faith, which is called the *Faith of God's Elect*, as is evident: For there must not be only Miracles wrought upon *outward Objects*, to beget that, which being too weak a thing, but it must be by the same Power that was stretched out in raising Christ from the Dead; yea, the exceeding Greatness of that Power, (Eph. i. 18, 19.) So there is a Believing, being taken with some marvellous Work, visibly appearing to the outward Sense of seeing; and there

is a believing that is wrought in the Heart, by an invisible Operation of the Spirit, revealing the Certainty of the Satisfaction of the Merits of Christ to the Soul in a more glorious Way, both for Certainty and for Durableness, both as to the Promise and the Constancy of it, *Mat. xvi. 17, 18.*

3. There is a Faith of a Man's own, of a Man's self also; but the Faith of the Operation of God (in Scripture) is set in Opposition to that; for faith he, *you are saved by Grace thro' Faith, and that not of yourselves,* (or of your own making, but that which is the free Gift of God, *Eph. ii. 8.*

4. We say, There is an *Historical Faith*, that is, such as is begotten meerly by the *History* of the *Word*, not by the co-operation of the Spirit by the *Word*.

5. We say, There is a *Traditional Faith*; that is, to believe things by *Tradition*; because others say they believe them; this is received by *Tradition*, not by *Revelation*, and shall never be able to stand neither at the Day of Death, nor at the Day of Judgment; though possibly, Men, while they live here, may esteem themselves and Estates to be very good, because their Heads are filled full of it.

6. There is a Faith that is called (in Scripture) a dead Faith, the Faith of Devils, or of the Devil; they also that have only this, they are like the Devil, and as sure to be damned as he, notwithstanding their Faith, if they get no better into their Hearts; for it is far off from enabling of them to lay effectual hold of Jesus Christ, and so to put him on for eternal Life and Sanctification, (*Jam. ii. 19, 26.*) which they must do if ever they be saved.

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But all these are short of the saving Faith of God's Elect, as is manifest; I say, First, Because these may be wrought, and not by that Power so exceedingly stretch'd forth. Secondly, Because these are wrought; partly, First, by the Sense of seeing, namely, the Miracles (not by hearing) and, Secondly, the rest is wrought by a traditional or historical Influence of the Words in their Heads, not by an heavenly Invisible, Almighty, and saving Operation of the Spirit of God in their Hearts.

7. I do suppose also, That there is a Faith that is wrought upon Men through the Influence of those Gifts and Abilities that God gives sometimes to those that are not his own by Election, tho' by Creation; my Meaning is, some Men finding that God hath given them very great Gifts and Abilities; as to the Gifts of Preaching, Praying, working Miracles, or the like; I say, they therefore do conclude, that God is their Father, and they his Children; the Ground of which Confidence is still begotten, not by the glorious Operation of the Spirit, but by a considering of the great Gifts that God hath bestowed upon them, as to the Things before-mentioned.

As thus, First, The poor Soul considering how ignorant it was, and now how knowing it is. Secondly, Considering how vain it formerly was, and also now how civil it is, presently makes this Conclusion, Surely God loves me, surely he hath made me one of his, and will save me. This is now a wrong Faith, as is evident, in that it is placed upon a wrong Object; for mark, this Faith is not placed assuredly on God's Grace alone, through the Blood and Merits of Christ, being discovered effectually to the Soul, but upon God
through

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through those things that God hath given it ; as
of Gifts, either to Preach or Pray, or great Works,
or the like, which will assuredly come to nought,
as sure as God is in Heaven ; if no better Faith,
and Ground of Faith be found out for thy Soul
savingly to rest upon.

As to the second Cause of the Objection, which
runs to this Effect, God loves Men upon the ac-
count of their believing ; I answer, That God loves
Men before they believe, he loves them, he calls
them, and gives them Faith to believe. *But God,*
who is rich in Grace with his great Love, wherewith
he loved us, (When? when we believed, or before?)
even when we were dead in our Sins (and so, far off
from Believers) *hath quickned us together with Christ*
(by Grace ye are saved) Eph. ii. 4, 5.

Now also, I suppose that thou wilt say in thy
Heart, I would you would shew us this, what is
saving Faith ; which thing it may be I may touch
upon a while hence, in the next Thing that I am
to speak unto : O they that have that, are safe
indeed !

The Second Thing.

THE Second thing that I am to speak unto, is
this, *Who they are that are actually brought*
into this free and unchangeable Grace ; and also
how they are brought in.

Answer. Indeed now we are come to the Pinch
of the whole Discourse ; and if God do but help
me to run rightly thorough this, as I do verily be-
lieve he will, I may do thee, Reader, Good, and
bring Glory to my God.

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The Question containeth these two Branches; First, Who are brought in : Secondly, How they are brought in : The First is quickly answered : *Christ Jesus came into the World to save Sinners, Jewish Sinners, Gentile Sinners, old Sinners, young Sinners, great Sinners, the chiefest of Sinners, 1 Tim. i. 14, 15. Rom. v. 7 to 10. 1 Cor. vi. 9, 10. Mat. xxi. 31. Publicans and Harlots ; that is, Whores, Cheaters and Exactors, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. For I came not (saith Christ) to call the Righteous, but sinners to Repentance, Mark ii. 17.*

A Sinner in the Scripture is described in general to be a Transgressor of the Law, *1 John iii. 4. Whosoever committeth Sin, transgresseth the Law ; for Sin is the Transgression of the Law.*

But particularly, they are described in a more particular way, as First, Such as in whom dwelleth the Devil, *Ephes. ii. 2, 3.* Secondly, Such as will do the Service of him, *John viii. 44.* Thirdly, Such as are Enemies to God, *Col. i. 21.* Fourthly, Such as are (*1 Cor. vi. 9, 10. 2 Chron. xxxiii. 1, to 12, &c. Acts ix. 1, 2, 3. 1 Tim. i. 14, 15, 16. Acts xix. 19. Acts ii. 36, 37.*) *Drunkards, Whoremasters, Lyars, perjured Persons, Covetous, Revilers, Extortioners, Fornicators, Swearers, possessed with Devils, Thieves, Idolaters, Witches, Sorcerers, Conjurers, Murderers, and the like ; these are Sinners, and such Sinners that God hath prepared Heaven, Happiness, Pardon of Sin, and an Inheritance of God, with Christ, Saints and Angels, if they do come in and accept of Grace, as I might prove at large ; for God's Grace is so great, that if they do come to him by Christ, presently all's forgiven 'em ; therefore never object, that thy Sins are too great*
to

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to be pardoned ; but *come taste and see how good the Lord is to any whosoever come unto him.*

The second Thing is, How are these brought into this everlasting Covenant of Grace.

Come, to the Touch-stone, Sinner. 2 *Ans.* When God doth in Deed and in Truth, bring in a Sinner into this most blessed Covenant (for so it is) he usually goeth this Way.

First, He slays or kills the Party to all Things besides himself, and his Son Jesus-Christ, and the Comforts of the Spirit.

For the clearing of this, I shall shew you, First, With what God kills: Secondly, How God kills; And, Thirdly, To what God kills those, whom he makes alive in Jesus Christ.

For the First, When God brings Sinners into the Covenant of Grace, he doth first kill them with the Covenant of Works, which is the Moral Law or Ten Commandments. This is *Paul's Doctrine*, and also *Paul's Experience*. It is his Doctrine where he saith, *The Ministration of Death engraven in Stones, the Ministration of Condemnation* (which is the Law, in that Place called the *Letter*) kills 2 *Cor.* iii. 6, 7, 8, 9. *The Letter* (saith he) killeth, or the Law or the Ministration of Death, which in another Place is called a Sound of Words, *Heb.* xii. 19. because they have no Life in them, but rather Death and Damnation, thro' our Inability to fulfil them (*Rom.* viii. 3.) doth kill 2 *Cor.* vi.

Secondly, It is his Experience, where he saith, *I was alive once* (that is, to my own things, *Phil.* iii. 7, 8, 9, 10.) *without the Law* (that is, before God did strike him dead by it) *but when the Commandment came* (that is, to do and exercise its right Office on me, which was to kill me, then)

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Sin revived and I died (and I was killed) and the Commandment (or the Law) which was ordained to be unto Life, I found to be unto Death: For Sin taking Occasion by the Commandment, deceived me, and thereby slew me, Rom. vii. 9, 10, 11. And indeed to speak my own Experience, together with the Experience of all the Saints, they can Seal with me to this, more or less.

Quest. But how doth God kill with this Law or Covenant?

Ans. First, By opening to the Soul the Spirituality of it; *The Law is spiritual* (saith he) *but I am carnal, sold under Sin, Rom. vii. 14.* Now the Spirituality of the Law is discovered this Way.

First, By shewing to the Soul, that every sinful Thought is a Sin against it. Aye, Sinner, when the Law doth come Home indeed upon thy Soul in the Spirituality of it, it will discover such Things to thee to be Sins, that thou now lookest over, and regardest not; that is a remarkable Saying of *Paul*, when he saith, *Sin revived and I died*; Sin revived, saith he, as if he had said, those things that before I did not value nor regard, but looked upon them to be Trifles, to be dead and forgotten; but when the Law was fastned on my Soul, it did so raise them from the Dead, call them to mind, so muster them before my Face, and put such Strength into them, that I was over-mastered by them, by the Guilt of them. *Sin revived*, by the Commandment, or my Sins had mighty Strength, Life, and Abundance of Force upon me, because of that; insomuch, that it killed me, *Mat. v. 28.*

Secondly, It sheweth that every such Sin deserveth eternal Damnation. (Friends, I doubt there

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there be but few of you that have seen the Spirituality of the Law of Works, but this is one Thing in which it discovereth its Spirituality, and this is the proper Work of the Law.

Thirdly, God with a Discovery of this doth also discover his own divine and infinite Justice (which the Law is a Description) which backs what is discovered by the Law ; and that by discovering of its Purity and Holiness, to be so Divine, so Pure, so Upright, and so far off from winking at the least Sin, that he doth by that Law, without any Favour, condemn the Sinner for that Sin, Gal. iii 10. Now when he hath brought the Soul into this Premunire, into this Puzzle ; Then,

2. He sheweth to the Soul the Nature and Condition of the Law, as to its dealing with, or forbearing of the Sinner, that hath sinned against it ; which is to pass an eternal Curse upon both Soul and Body of the Party so offending, saying to him, *Curfed be the Man, that continueth not in every thing that is written in the Book of the Law to do it* : For, saith the Law, this is my proper Work, First, To shew thee thy Sins, and when I have done that, then in the next Place to condemn thee for them, and that without all Remedy, as from me, or any thing within my Bounds ; for I am not to save any, to pardon any, nay, not to favour any in the least Thing that have sinned against me : For God did not send me to make alive, but to discover Sin, and to condemn for the same. Now, so soon as this is presented to the Conscience, in the next Place, the Law also by this Law doth shew that now there is no righteous Acts according to the Tenor of that Covenant that can reprieve him, or take off from all

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this Horreur and Curse that lies upon him; because that is not a Ministration of Pardon (as I said before) to forgive the Sin; but an Administration of Damnation, because of Transgression. O the very Discovery of this, striketh the Soul into a deadly Swoon, even above half dead. But when God doth do the Work indeed, he doth in the next Place shew the Soul that he is the Man that is eternally under this Covenant by Nature, and that it is thee that hath sinned against this Law, and doth by Right deserve the Curse and Displeasure of the same; and that all that ever he can do, will not give Satisfaction to that glorious Justice that did give this Law; holy Actions, Tears of Blood, selling all, and giving it to the Poor, or whatever else can be done by thee, it comes all short, and is all to no Purpose, *Phil. iii.* I'll warrant him, he that seeth this, it will kill him to that which he was alive unto before, though he had a thousand Lives. Ah! Sinners, Sinners, were you but sensible indeed of the Severity and Truth of this, it would make you look about you to Purpose. O how would it make you strive to stop at that, that now you drink down with Delight? How many Oaths would it make you bite asunder? Nay, it would make you bite your Tongues, to think that they should be used as Instruments of the Devil, to bring your Souls into such an unspeakable Misery; then also, we should not have you hang the Salvation of your Souls upon such slender Pins as now you do: No, no, but you would be in another Mind then. O then we should have you cry out, I must have Christ, what shall I do for Christ? How shall I come at Christ? Would I was sure, truly sure of Christ, my Soul gone, damned, cast away, and must for ever burn

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with the Devils, if I do not get precious Jesus Christ.

In the next Place, when God hath done this, then he the further shews the Soul, that Covenant which it is under by Nature is distinct from the Covenant of Grace; and also they that are under it, are by Nature without any of the Graces, which they have that are under the Covenant of Grace: As First, That it hath no Faith, *John xvi. 9.* Secondly, No Hope, *Eph. ii. 12.* Thirdly, Nor none of the Spirit to work these Things by Nature. Fourthly, Neither will that Covenant give to them any Peace with God. Fifthly, No Promise of Safeguard from his revenging Law, by that Covenant. Sixthly, But lieth by Nature liable to all the *Curses*, and *Condemnings*, and *Thunder-Claps* of this most *fery Covenant*. Seventhly, That it will accept of no Sorrow, no Repentance, no Satisfaction, as from thee. Eighthly, That it calls for no less than the shedding of *thy Blood*. Ninthly, The *Damnation* of thy Soul and Body. Tenthly, And if there be any thing proffered to it by thee, as to the making of it amends, it throws it back again as Dirt in thy Face, slighting all that thou canst bring.

Now when the Soul is brought into this Condition, then it is indeed dead; killed to that to which it was once alive.

And therefore in the next Place, to shew you to what it is killed; and that is first, to Sin: O it dares not sin! it sees Hell Fire is prepared for them that sin: God's Justice will not spare it if it live in Sin; the Law will damn it, if it live in Sin; the Devil will have it, if it follow its Sin: O, I say, it trembles at the very Thoughts of Sin; Aye, if Sin do but offer to tempt the Soul to draw away the Soul from God, it cries, it sighs, it
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shunneth the very Appearance of Sin, it is obvious unto it. If God would but serve you thus that love your Pleasures, you would not make such a Trifle of Sin, as you do.

Secondly, It is killed to the Law of God, as it is the *Covenant of Works*: Oh, saith the Soul, the Law hath killed me to its self, *I through the Law am dead to the Law* (*Gal. ii. 19.*) The Law is another Thing than I did think it was! I thought it would not have been so Soul-destroying, so damning a Law! I thought it would not have been so severe against me for my little Sins, for my playing, for my jesting, for my dissembling, quarreling, and the like! I had some Thoughts indeed, that would hew great Sinners, but let me pass! and though it condemned great Sinners, yet it would pass by me! But now, would I were free from this Covenant! would I were free from this Law! I will tell thee, That a Soul thus worked upon, is more afraid of the Covenant of Works, than he is of the Devil; for he sees it is the Law that doth give him up into his Hands for Sin; and if he was but clear from that, he should not greatly need to fear the Devil. Oh! now every particular Command tears the Caul of his Heart! now every Command is as a great Gun well charged against his Soul! now he sees he had as good run into a Fire, to keep himself from burning, as to run to the Law, to keep himself from damning; and this he sees really, aye, and feels it too, to his own Sorrow and Perplexity.

Thirdly, The Soul also now is killed to his own Righteousness, and counts that but Dung, but Dross, not worth the Dirth hanging on his Shoes. Oh! then says he, *thou filthy Righteousness!* (*Isa. lxii. 6.*)

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low hast thou deceived me? How hast thou beguiled my poor Soul? How did I deceive myself with giving a little Alms? With abstaining from some gross Pollutions? With walking in some Ordinances, as to the out-side of them? How hath my good Words, good Thinkings, good Meanings (as the World calls them) deceived my ignorant Soul? I want the Righteousness of Faith, the Righteousness of God; for I see now there is no less will do me any good.

Fourthly, It is also killed to its own Faith, its Notion of the Gospel, its own Hope, its own Repentings, its own Promises and Resolutions, to its own Strength, its own Virtue, or whatsoever it had before: Now saith the Soul, That Faith I thought I had, it is but Fancy; that Hope I thought I had, I see it is but hypocritical, but vain and groundless Hope: Now the Soul sees it hath by Nature no saving Faith, no saving Hope, no Grace at all by Nature, by the First Covenant. Now it crieth out, how many Promises have I broken? and how many times have I resolved in vain, when I was sick at such a time, and in such a Streight, at such a Place: Indeed I thought myself a wise Man once, but I see myself a very Fool now: O how ignorant am I of the Gospel now? and of the blessed Experience of the Work of God on a Christian's Heart? In a Word, it sees itself beset by Nature with all Evil, and destitute of all Good, which is enough to kill the stoutest, hardest-hearted Sinner that ever lived on the Earth. O Friends! should you be plainly dealt withal, by this Discovery of the dealing of God with a Sinner, when he makes him a Saint, and would seriously try yourselves thereby (as God would try you one Day) how few would there be found of you, to be so much

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as acquainted with the Work of God in the Notion, much less in the experimental Knowledge of the same? And, indeed, God is fain to take this Way with Sinners, thus to kill them with the Old Covenant, to all Things below a Crucified Christ.

* First, Because otherwise there would be none in the World that would look after this sweet Jesus Christ. There is but a few that go to Heaven in all (comparatively) and them few. God is fain to deal with them in this manner, or else his *Heaven*, his *Christ*, his *Glory*, and *everlasting Happiness* must abide by themselves for all Sinners. Do you think that *Manasseh* would have regarded the Lord, had he not suffered his Enemies to have prevailed against him? *2 Chron. xxxiii.* from the 1st Verse to the 16th. *Jer. xxxi. 18.* Do you think that *Ephraim* would have looked after Salvation, had not God first confounded him with the Guilt of the Sins of his Youth? What do you think of *Paul*, *Acts ix. 4, 5, 6.* What do you think of the Jailor? *Acts xvi. 30, 31, 32.* What do you think of the three thousand? *Acts ii. 36, 37.* Was not this the Way that the Lord was fain to take to make them close in with Jesus Christ? Was he not fain to kill them to every Thing below a Christ, they that are driven to their Wits ends? inasmuch that they were forced to cry out, *What shall we do to be saved?* I say, God might keep Heaven and Happiness to himself, if he should not go this Way to work with Sinners. O stout-hearted Rebel! O tender-hearted God!

Secondly, Because then, and not till then, will Sinners accept of Jesus Christ on God's Terms.

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So long as Sinners can make a Life out of any thing below Christ, so long they will not close with Christ without indenting; but when the God of Heaven hath killed them to every thing below himself, and his Son; then Christ will down on any Terms in the World. And, indeed, this is the very Reason why Sinners, when they hear of Christ, yet will not close in with him, there is something that they can take Content in besides him. The Prodigal so long as he could content himself with the Husks that the Swine did eat, so long he did keep away from his Father's House; but when he could get no Nourishment any where on this Side of his Father's House, then saith he, and not till then, *I will arise, and go to my Father, &c.*

I say, This is the Reason therefore why Men come no faster, and close no realier with the Son of God, but stand halting and indenting about the Terms they must have Christ upon; for, saith the Drunkard, I look on Christ to be worth the having; but yet I am not willing to lose ALL for him; all but the Pot, saith the Drunkard; and all but the World, saith the Covetous: I will part with any thing but Lust and Pride, saith the Wanton; but if Christ will not be had without, I forsake all, cast away all; then it must be with me as with the young Man in the Gospel, such News will make me sorry at my very Heart.

But now when a Man is soundly killed to all his Sins, to all his Righteousness, to all his Comforts whatsoever, and sees that there is no Way but the Devil must have him, but he must be damned in Hell if he be not cloathed with Jesus Christ: Oh! then (saith he) give me Christ on any
Terms,

Terms, whatsoever he cost; though he cost me Friends, though he cost me Comforts, though he cost me all that ever I have; yet, like the wise Merchant in the Gospel, they will sell all to get that Pearl. I tell you, when a Soul is brought to see its Want of Christ aright, it will not be kept back: Father, Mother, Husband, Wife, Lands, Livings, nay Life and all shall go, rather than the Soul will miss Christ. Aye, and the Soul counteth Christ a cheap Saviour, if he can get him upon any Terms; now the Soul indents no longer. Now, Lord, give me Christ, upon any Terms whatsoever he cost; for I am a dead Man, a damned Man, a Cast-away, if I have not Christ. What say you, O you wounded Sinners? Is not this true as I have said? Would you not give ten thousand Worlds if you had so many, so you might be well assured, that your Sins shall be pardoned, and your Souls and Bodies justified and glorified at the Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thirdly, The Lord goeth this Way for this Reason also, that it might make the Soul sensible what it cost Christ to redeem it from Death and Hell. When a Man cometh to feel the Sting and Guilt of Sin, Death, and Hell upon his Conscience, then, and not till then, can he tell what it cost Christ to redeem Sinners. O! saith the Soul, if a few Sins are so terrible, and lay the Soul under such Wrath and Torment, what did Christ undergo, who bare the Sins of Thousands and Thousands, and all at once.

This also is one Means to make Souls tender of Sin (it is the burned Child that dreadeth the Fire) to make them humble in a Sense of their own Vileness, to make them count every Thing

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that God giveth them a Mercy, to make much of the least Glimpse of the Love of God, and to prize it above the whole World. O Sinners, were you killed indeed, then *Heaven* would be *Heaven*, and *Hell* would be *Hell* indeed; but because you are not wrought upon in this Manner, therefore you count the Ways of God, as bad as a good Man counteth the Ways of the Devil, and the Ways of the Devil and Hell as good as a Saint doth count the Ways of God.

Fourthly, Again, God is fain to go this Way, and all to make Sinners make sure of *Heaven*. So long as Souls are senseless of Sin, and what a *damnable State* they are in by *Nature*, so long they will even dally with the *Kingdom of Heaven*, and the *Salvation* of their own poor Souls; but when God cometh and sheweth them where they are, and what is like to become of them if they miss of the *Crucified Saviour*; Oh then, saith the Soul, would I were sure of *Jesus*; what shall I do to get Assurance of *Jesus*? And thus is God forced, as I may say, to whip Souls to *Jesus Christ*, they being so secure, so senseless, and so much their own Enemies, as not to look out after their own eternal Advantage.

Fifthly, A fifth Reason why God doth deal thus with Sinners, it is because he would bring *Christ* and the *Soul* together in a *right Way*. *Christ* and *Sinners* would never come together in a beloved Posture, they would not so suitably suit each other, if they were not brought together this Way, the Sinner being killed.

— O when the Sinner is killed, and indeed struck
— dead to every thing below a naked *Jesus*, how
— suitably then doth the Soul and *Christ* suit one
with

with another. Then here is a naked Sinner for a righteous Jesus, a *poor* Sinner to a *rich* Jesus, a *weak* Sinner to a *strong* Jesus, a *blind* Sinner to a *seeing* Jesus, an *ignorant, careless* Sinner, to a *wise and careful* Jesus. O how wise is God in dealing thus with a Sinner? He strips him of his Knowledge, that he may fill him with Christ's; he killeth him for taking Pleasure in Sin, that he may take Pleasure in Jesus Christ, &c.

Sixthly, But sixthly, God goeth this Way with Sinners, because he would have the Glory of their Salvation. Should not Men and Women be killed to their own Things, they would do Sacrifice unto them, and instead of saying to the Lamb, *THOU ART WORTHY*, Rev. v. 9. Job xl. 14. Rom. iii. 27. Ephes. ii. 8, 9. Tit. iii. 5. they would say their own *Arm*, thir own *Right Hand* hath saved them; but God will cut off *Boasting* from ever entring within the *Borders of eternal Glory*; for he is resolved to have the *Glory* of the *Beginning*, the *Middle*, and the *End*, of the *contriving* and *saving*, and giving *Salvation* to them that enter into the Joys of everlasting Glory. *That they may be called the Trees of Righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified*, Isa. lxi. 3. I might have run through many Things as to this; but I shall pass them, and proceed.

Now Secondly, the Soul being thus killed to its self, its Sins, its Righteousness, Faith, Hope, Wisdom, Promises, Resolutions, and the rest of its Things which it trust-

That Soul that hath the right Work of God upon its Heart, is not only killed to its self, but also made alive to Christ.

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ed in by Nature. In the next Place, it hath also given unto me a most glorious, perfect and never fading Life, which is first a Life imputed to it; yet so really, that the very Thought of it in the Soul hath so much Operation and Authority, especially when the Meditation of it is mixed with Faith, as to make it (tho' condemned by the Law) to triumph, and to look its Enemies in the Face with Comfort; notwithstanding the Greatness of the Multitude, the Fierceness of their Anger, and the Continuation of their Malice, be ever so hot against it.

— This imputed Life (for so it is) is the Obedience of the Son of God, as his Righteousness, in his Suffering, Rising, Ascending, Interceding, and so consequently triumphing over all the Enemies of the Soul, and given to me, as being wrought on purpose for me. So that, Is there Righteousness in Christ? that is mine: Is there Perfection in that Righteousness? that is mine: Did he bleed for Sin? it was mine: Hath he overcome the Law, the Devil, and Hell? The Victory is mine, and I am counted the Conqueror? *Nay, more than a Conqueror, through him that hath loved me:* And I count this a most glorious Life; for by this means it is that I am in the first place proclaimed both in Heaven and Earth guiltless, and such a one, who, as I am in Christ, am not a Sinner, and so not under the Law, as to be condemned, but as holy and righteous as the Son of God himself, because he himself is my Holiness and Righteousness, and so likewise having by this all things taken out of the Way that would condemn me.

Amne Amen Amen Some-

Sometimes I bless the Lord, my Soul hath had the Life that now I am speaking of, not only imputed to me, but the very Glory of it upon my Soul: For, upon a time, when I was under many Condemnings of Heart, and feared because of my Sins, my Soul would miss of eternal Glory; methought I felt in my Soul such a secret Motion as this, *Thy Righteousness is in Heaven*, together with the Splendor and Shining of the Spirit of Grace in my Soul, which gave me to see clearly, that my Righteousness by which I should be justified (from all that could condemn) was the Son of God himself in his own Person now at the Right-Hand of his Father, representing me compleat before the Mercy-seat in his own self: So that I saw clearly, that Night and Day, where-ever I was, or what-ever I was doing, still there was my Righteousness just before the Eyes of Divine Glory; so that the Father could never find fault with me for any Insufficiency that was in my Righteousness, being it was compleat; neither could he say, Where is it? because it was continually at his Right-Hand.

Also, at another time having contracted Guilt upon my Soul, and having some Distemper of Body upon me, supposed that Death might now so seize upon, as to take me away from among Men: Then I thought, what shall I do now? Is all right with my Soul? Have I the right Work of God on my Soul? Answering myself, No surely, and that because there are so many Weaknesses in me; yea, so many Weaknesses in my best Duties: For, thought I, how can such a one as I find Mercy, whose Heart is so ready to Evil, and so backward to that which is Good (so far as it is natural.) Thus musing, being filled with Fear

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to die, these Words came in upon my Soul, Being justified freely by his Grace, through the Redemption which is in Christ; as if God had said, Sinner, thou thinkest because thou hast had so many Infirmities and Weaknesses in thy Soul, whilst thou hadst been professing of me, therefore now there is no hopes of Mercy; but be it known unto thee, that it was not any thing done by thee at the first, that moved me to have Mercy upon thee; neither is it any thing that is done by thee now, that shall make me either accept or reject thee; behold my Son who standeth by me, he is Righteous, he hath fulfilled my Law, and given me good Satisfaction; on him therefore do I look, and on thee only as thou art in him, and according to what he had done, so will I deal with thee: This having stayed my Heart, and taken off the Guilt through the Strength of its coming on my Soul, anon after came in that Word as a second Testimony: *He hath saved us, and called us with a holy Calling, not according to the Works of Righteousness which we have done, but according to his own Purpose and Grace which was given us in Christ Jesus before the World began.*

And thus is the Sinner made alive from the Dead, being justified by Grace through the Righteousness of Christ which is unto all, and upon all them that believe according to the Scriptures, *And the Life that I now live, it is by the Faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me, Gal. ii. 20. I lay down my Life for my Sheep, John x. 10, 15. I am come that you might have it more abundantly. For if while we were Enemies, we were reconciled to God by the Death of his Son; much more then being reconciled, we shall be saved by his Life, Rom. v. 10, 21.*

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That a Sin reigneth unto Death, even so might Grace reign through Righteousness unto eternal Life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Secondly, This Life is not only imputed to him that is wrought on by the Spirit of Grace, that is not only counted his ; but also there is put into the Soul an Understanding, enlightned on purpose to know the things of God, which is Christ and his imputed Righteousness (1 John v. 20.) which it never thought of, nor understood before (1 Cor. ii. 9, 10, 11.) which Understanding being enlightned, and made to see such things that the Soul cannot be contented without it lay hold of, and apply Christ unto itself, so effectually ; I say that the Soul shall be exceedingly revived in a very *heavenly Measure*, with the Application of this imputed *Righteousness*; for thereby it knoweth it shall find God *speaking Peace* to its self, with a *fatherly Affection* say, *Be of good Chear, thy Sins are forgiven thee*, the Righteousness of my Son I bestow upon thee : *For what the Law could not do in that it was weak through the (thy) Flesh, I have sent forth my only Son, and have condemned thy Sins in his Flesh*, Rom. viii. 3, 4. And though thou hast gone astray like a lost Sheep, yet on him I have laid thine Iniquities ; and tho' thereby didst undo and break thy self for ever, yet by his Stripes I have healed thee. Thus, I say, the Lord causeth thy Soul by Faith to apply that which he doth by Grace impute unto it (for thus every Soul more or less is dealt withal ;) the Soul being thus enlightned, thus quickened, thus made alive from that dead State it was in before (or at least having the Beginnings of this Life) it hath these several virtuous Advantages, which
they

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they have not that are dead in their Sins and Trespases, and under the Law.

First, It seeth what a sad Condition all Men by Nature are in, they being in that State which itself was in but a while since; but now by Grace it is beginning to scrabble out of it; now it seeth the whole World lieth in Wickedness (*John v. 19.*) and so liable to eternal Vengeance, because of their Wickedness. Ah! Friends, let me tell you, tho' you may be ignorant of your State and Condition, yet the poor groaning, hungry Saints of God do see what a sad, woeful, miserable State you are in, which sometimes makes them tremble to think of your most lamentable latter End (you

** Like as the Children of Israel, who fled for Fear, when the Ground open'd its Mouth to swallow up Corah and his Company, Ps. ciii 1, 2, 3.*

dying so) and also to **fly* the faster to their Lord Jesus, for very Fear that they should also be Partakers of that most doleful Doom; and this it hath by Virtue of its own Experience, knowing itself was but a while ago in the same Condition, under the same Condemnation. O! this is now a hearty Blessing of God that ever he should shew to it its sad Condition, and that he should incline its Heart to seek after a better Condition. O blessed be the Lord! saith the Soul, that ever he should awaken me, stir up me, and bring me out of that sad Condition, that I once with them was in. It makes also the Soul to wonder, to see how foolishly and vainly the rest of its Neighbours do spend their precious Time, that they should be so void of Understanding, so forgetful of their latter End, so senseless of the damning Nature of their Sins: O that their Eyes

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were but enlighten'd to see whereabouts they are ! surely they would be of another Mind than they are now in. Now the Soul wonders to see what slender Pins those poor Creatures do hang the Stress of the eternal Salvation of their Souls upon. Oh ! methinks, saith the Soul, it makes me mourn to see that some should think that they were born Christians, and others that their Baptism makes them so, others depending barely upon a Traditional, Historical Faith, which will leave their Souls in the midst of Perplexity. O that they should trust to such Fables, Fancies, and wicked Sights of the Devil, as their good Doings, their good Thinkings, their civil Walking, and living with the World. O miserable Profession ! and the End thereof will be a miserable End.

But now, when the Soul is thus wrought upon, it must be sure to look for the very Gates of Hell to be set open against it, with all their Force and Might to destroy it. Now Hell rageth, the Devil roareth, and all the World resolveth to do the best they can, to bring the Soul again into Bondage and Ruin. Also the Soul shall not want Enemies, even in its own Heart's Lust, as Covetousness, Adultery, Blasphemy, Unbelief, Hardness of Heart, Coldness, Half-heartedness, Ignorance, with an innumerable Company of Attendants, hanging like so many Blocks, at its Heels, ready to sink into the Fire of Hell every Moment, together with strange Apprehensions of God and Christ, as if now they were absolutely turned to be its Enemies, which maketh it doubt of the Certainty of its Salvation : For you must understand, that though a Soul may in Reality have the Righteousness of the Son of God,

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God imputed to it, and also some Faith in a very strong Manner to lay hold upon it; yet at another Time, through Temptation that may fear and doubt again; insomuch that the Soul may be put into a very great Fear, lest it should return again into the Condition it once was in, *Jer. xxxii. 40.* O saith the Soul, when I think of my former State, how *miserable* it was, it makes me tremble; and when I think that I may fall into that *Condition* again, how sad are the Thoughts of it to me? I would not be in that Condition again for all the World; and this Fear riseth still higher and higher, as the Soul is sensible of *Satan's Temptations*, or of its working of its own Corruptions. Ha! these filthy Lusts, these filthy Corruptions, O that I was rid of them, that they were consumed in a Moment, that I could be quite rid of them, they do so disturb my Soul, dishonour my God, so defile my Conscience, and sometimes so weaken my Hands in the Way of God, and my Comforts in the Lord; O how glad should I be, if I might be stripped of them, *Rom. vii. 24.* Which Fear puts the Soul upon flying to the Lord by Prayer, for the covering of his imputed Righteousness, and for Strength against the *Devil's Temptations* and its own Corruptions; that God will give down his holy Spirit to strengthen it against the Things that do so annoy its Soul, and so discourage it in its Way, with a Resolution thro' Grace, never to be contented, while it doth find in its self a triumphing over it by Faith in the Blood of a crucified Jesus.

Secondly, The Soul that hath been thus killed by the Law to its things it formerly delighted in; now, O now it cannot be contented with that slender groundless Faith and Hope that it once

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contented itself withal. No, no, but now it must be brought into the right saving Knowledge of Jesus Christ, now it must have him discovered to the Soul by the Spirit, now it cannot be satisfied, because such and such do tell it it is so. No, but now it will cry out, *Lord shew me continually in the Light of thy Spirit through thy Word, that Jesus that was born in the Days of Cæsar Augustus, (when Mary a Daughter of Judah went with Joseph to be taxed at Bethlehem) that he is the very Christ. Lord let me see it in the Light of thy Spirit, and in the Operation thereof, and let me not be contented without such a Faith that is so wrought even by the Discovery of his Birth, Crucifying, Death, Blood, Resurrection, Ascension, Intercession, and second (which is his personal) coming again, that the very Faith of it may fill my Soul with Comfort and Holiness: And O how afraid the Soul is, lest it should fall short of this Faith, and of the Hope that is begotten by such Discoveries as these are? For the Soul knoweth, that if it hath not this, it will not be able to stand neither in Death nor Judgment; and therefore saith the Soul, Lord, whatever other poor Souls content themselves withal, let me have that which will stand me in stead, and carry me through a dangerous World, that may help me to resist a cunning Devil, that may help me to suck true Soul satisfying Consolation from Jesus Christ through thy Promises by the Might and Power of thy Spirit. And now, when the poor Soul at any Time hath any Discovery of the Love of God through a bleeding, dying, rising, interceeding Jesus, because it is not willing to be deceived; O*

** But this may be its Temptation, taking place through the Timorousness of the Soul.*

*how * wary it is of closing with it, for fear it should not be right, for*

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fear it should not come from God? Saith the Soul, *Cannot the Devil give one such Comfort too? Cannot he transform himself thus into an Angel of Light?* So that the Soul (because that it would be upon a sure Ground) cries out, *Lord, shew me thy Salvation, and that not once or twice, but, Lord, let me have thy Presence continually upon my Heart, to-day and to-morrow, and every Day:* For the Soul, when it is rightly brought from under the Covenant of Works, and planted into the Covenant of Grace, then it cannot be (unless it be under some desperate Temptation) contented without the Presence of God, teaching, comforting, establishing, and helping of the Soul to grow in the Things of the Lord Jesus Christ; because it knoweth, that if God hath but withdrawn his Presence in any way from it (as he doth do sometimes for a while) that then the Devil will be sure to be near at hand, working with his Temptations, trying all Ways to get the Soul into Slavery and Sin again; also the corrupt Principle that will be joining and combining with the wicked One, and will be willing to be a Co-partner with him, to bring the Soul into Mischief, which puts a Soul upon an earnest continual panting after more of the strengthening, preserving, comforting, and teaching Presence of God, and for strong Supplies of Faith, that it may effectually lay hold on him.

13 Thirdly, The Soul is quickened so, that it is not satisfied now without it do in Deed and in Truth partake of the Peace of God's Elect; now it is upon the Examination of the Reality of its Joy and Peace: Time was indeed that any thing would serve its Turn, any false Conceits of its State to be good; but now all kind of Peace will

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not serve its Turn, all kind of Joy will not be accepted with it: Now it must joy in God, through Jesus Christ, now its Peace must come through the Virtue of the Blood of Christ, speaking Peace to the Conscience, by taking away both the Guilt and the Filth of Sin by that Blood; also by shewing the Soul its free Acceptance with God through Christ, he hath compleatly fulfilled all the Conditions of the first Covenant, and freely hath placed it into the Safety of what he hath done, and so presents the Soul compleat and spotless in the Sight of God through his Obedience. Now, I say, he hath *Peace through the Blood of his Cross*, and sees himself *reconciled to God by the Death of his Son*, Col. i. 20, 21. or else his Comfort will be questioned by him. It is not every Promise as cometh now upon his Heart that will serve his Turn; no, but he must see whether the *Babe* Jesus be presented to the Soul, in and through that Promise: Now if the *Babe leap in his Womb*, as I may so say, it is because the Lord's Promise sounds aloud in his Heart, coming to him big with the Love and pardoning Grace of God in Christ Jesus; I say, this is the first and principal Joy that the Soul hath, that is quickened and brought into the Covenant of Grace.

Fourthly, Now the Man finds heavenly Sanctification wrought in his Soul, through the most precious Blood of the Man whose Name is Jesus Christ. *Jesus, that he might sanctify the People with his own Blood, suffered without the Gate.* Now the Soul finds a Change in the Understanding, in the Will, in the Mind, in the Affections, in the Judgment, and also in the Conscience; through

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through the *inward Man* a *Change*, and thro' the *outward Man* a *Change*, from Head to Foot, as we use to say, *For he that is in Christ*, and in this *Covenant of Grace*, is a *new Creature*, 2 Cor. v. 17. or hath been twice made, made, and made again. O now the Soul is resolved for Heaven and Glory, now it crieth out, Lord, if there be a right Eye offensive to thee, pluck it out; or a right Foot, cut it off; or a right Hand, take it from me; now the Soul doth begin to study how it may honour God, and bring Praise to him. Now the Soul is for a *Preparation*, for the *second-coming of Christ*, endeavouring to lay aside every thing that may hinder; and for the closing in with those things that may make it in a *beloved Posture* against that Day.

Fifthly, And all this from a Gospel Spirit, and not from a Legal natural Principle, for the Soul hath these things as the Fruits and Effects of its being separated into the *Covenant of Grace*, and so now possessed with that Spirit that doth attend, yea, and dwell in them that are brought into the *Covenant of Grace*, from under the *Old Covenant*; I say, these Things do spring forth in the Soul from another Root and Stock, than any of the actings as other Men do; for the Soul that is thus wrought upon, is as well dead to the Law and the Righteousness thereof (as the first Covenant) as well as to its Sins.

Sixthly, Now the Soul begins to have some *blessed Experience* of the Things of God, even of the *glorious Mysteries* of the Gospel.

I. Now it knoweth the Meaning of those Words; *My Flesh is Meat indeed, and my Blood is Drink indeed*, John vi. 55. and that by Experience; for the Soul hath received Peace of Con-

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science through that Blood, by the effectual Application of it to the Soul. First, By feeling the Guilt of Sin die off from the Conscience, by the Operation thereof. Secondly, By feeling the Power thereof to takeaway the Curse of the Law. Thirdly, By finding the very Strength of Hell to fail, when once the Blood of the Man Jesus Christ is received in Reality upon the Soul.

2. Now, the Soul also knoweth by Experience, the Meaning of that Scripture that saith, *Our old Man is crucified with him, that the Body of Sin might be destroyed*, Rom. vi. 6. Now it sees that when the Man Jesus did hang on the Tree on Mount *Calvary*, that then the Body of its Sins was there hanged up, dead and buried with him, though it was then unborn, so as never to be laid to its Charge, either here or hereafter; and also, as never to carry it *Captive into perpetual Bondage*, being itself overcome by him, even Christ the Head of that poor Creature. And indeed this is the Way for a Soul, both to live comfortably, as touching the Guilt of Sin; and also, as touching the Power of the Filth of Sin; for the Soul that doth, or hath received this indeed and in Truth, finds Strength against them both, by and through that Man that did for him and the rest of his fellow Sinners, so gloriously overcome it, and hath given the Victory unto them, so that now they are said to be Overcomers, nay, *more than Conquerors through him*, the one Man Jesus Christ, Rom. viii. 33, 34, 35, 36, 37.

3. Now the Soul hath received a Faith indeed, and a lively Hope indeed, such a one as now it can fetch Strength from the Fulness of Christ, and from the Merits of Christ.

4. Yea

4. Yea, now the Soul can look on itself with one Eye, and look upon Christ with another, and say, Indeed it is true, I am an empty Soul, but Christ is a full Christ; I am a poor Sinner, but Christ is a rich Christ; I am a foolish Sinner, but Christ is a wise Christ; I am an unholy, ungodly, unsanctified Creature in myself, *But Christ is made of God, unto me, Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification and Redemption,* 1 Cor. i. 30.

5. Now also that fiery Law, that it could not once endure, nor could not once delight in; I say, now it can delight in it after the Inward Man; now this Law is its Delight, it would always be walking in it, and always be delighted in it, being offended with any Sin, or any Corruption, that would be any ways an Hindrance to it, *Rom. vii. 24, 25.* And yet it will not endure that even that Law should offer to take the Work of its Salvation out of Christ's Hand: No, if it once come to do that, then out of Doors it shall go, if it was as good again. For that Soul that hath the right Work of God indeed upon it, cries, Not my Prayers, not my Tears, not my Works, not my Things, do they come from the Work of the Spirit of Christ itself within me; yet these shall not have the Glory of my Salvation: No, it is none but the Blood of Christ, the Death of Christ, of the Man Christ Jesus of *Nazareth*, the Carpenter's Son (as they called him) that must have the Crown and Glory of my Salvation. None but Christ, none but Christ; and thus the Soul labours to give Christ the Pre-eminence, *Col. i. 18.*

Now before I go any further, I must needs speak a Word from my own Experience of the Things of Christ; and the rather because we have

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a Company of silly ones in this Day of Ignorance, that do either comfort themselves with a Notion without the Power, or else do both reject the Notion and the Power of this most glorious Gospel ; therefore for the further Conviction of the Reader, I shall tell him (with *David*) something of what the Lord hath done for my Soul ; and indeed a little of the Experience of the Things of Christ, is far more worth than all the World. It would be too tedious for me to tell thee (here) all from the first to the last, but something I shall tell thee, that thou mayest not think these things are Fables.

Reader, When it pleased the Lord to begin to instruct my Soul, he found me one of the *black Sinners* of the World ; he found me making a Sport of Oaths, and also of Lyes, and many a *Soul-poisoning Meal* did I make out of divers Lusts, as Drinking, Dancing, Playing, Pleasure with the *wicked Ones of the World*. The Lord finding of me

in this * Condition, did open the *Glass* of his Law unto me, wherein he sheweth me so clearly my Sins, both the Greatness of them, and also how abominable they were in his Sight, that I thought the very Clouds were charged

* *This Conviction seized on my Soul, one Sabbath Day when I was at Play, being one of the first that I had ; which when it came, tho' it scared me with its Terror, yet thro' the Temptation of the Devil, immediately striking in there-with, I did rub it off again, and became as vile for some Time as I was before, like a Wretch that I was.*

with the Wrath of God, and ready to let fall the very Fire of his Jealousy upon me ; yet for all this I was so wedded to my Sins, that I thought with myself, I will have

have them, though I lose my Soul, (O wicked Wretch that I was) but God, the great, the rich, the *infinite merciful God*, did not take this Advantage of my Soul to cast me away, and say, then take him Devil, seeing he cares for me no more; no, but he followed me still, and won upon my Heart, by giving of me some Understanding, not only into my *miserable State*, which I was very *sensible* of; but also that there might be Hopes of Mercy, also taking away that Love to Lust, and placing in the Room thereof a Love to Religion; and thus the Lord won over my Heart to some Desire after the Means, to hear the Word, and to grow a Stranger to my old Companions, and to accompany the People of God together with giving me many sweet Encouragements from several Promises in the Scriptures; but after this, the Lord did wonderfully set my Sins upon my *Conscience*, those Sins especially that I had committed since the first Convictions; Temptations also followed me very hard, especially such Temptations as did tend to the making me question the very Way of Salvation, *viz.* whether Jesus Christ was the Saviour or no; and whether I had best to venture my Soul upon his Blood for Salvation, or take some other Course. But being through Grace kept close with God (in some Measure) in Prayer, and the rest of the Ordinances; but when about a Year and upwards, without any sound Evidence as from God to my Soul, touching the Salvation as comes by Jesus Christ. But, at the last, as I may say, when the set Time was come, the Lord (just before the Men called *Quakers* came into the Country) did set me down so blessedly in the Truth of the Doctrine of Jesus Christ,

Christ, that it made me marvel, to see first, how Jesus Christ was born of a *Virgin*, walked in the World a while with his Disciples, afterwards hanged on the Cross, spilt his *Blood*, was buried, rose again, ascended above the *Clouds* and *Heavens*, there lives to make Intercession; and that he also will come again at the last Day to judge the World, and take his Saints unto himself. These Things, I say, I did see so *evidently*, even as if I had stood by when he was in the World, and also when he was caught up. I having such a Change as this upon my Soul, it made me wonder; and musing with myself at the great Alteration that was in my Spirit; for the Lord did also very gloriously give me his precious Word to back the Discovery of the Son of God unto me, so that I can say, through Grace it was according to the Scriptures, (1 Cor. xv. 1, 2, 3, 4.) and as I was musing with myself what these Things should mean, methought I heard such a Word in my Heart as this; *I have set thee down on purpose, for I have something more than ordinary for thee to do*; which made me the more marvel; saying, What, my Lord, such a poor Wretch as I? yet still this continued, *I have set thee down on purpose*, and so forth, with more fresh Incomes of the Lord Jesus, and the Power of the Blood of his Cross upon my Soul, even so *evidently*, that I saw (through Grace) that it was the Blood shed on Mount Calvary that did *save* and *redeem* Sinners, as clearly and as really with the Eyes of my Soul, as ever (me thoughts) I had seen a Penny Loaf bought with a Penny; which Things then *discovered*, had such Operation upon my Soul, that I do hope, they did *sweetly season* every Faculty thereof. Reader,

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I speak in the Presence of God, and he knows I lye not; much of this, and such like Dealings of his, I could tell thee of; but my Business at this Time is not so to do; but only to tell what Operation the Blood of *Christ* hath had over and upon my Conscience, and that at several Times, and also when I have been in several Frames of Spirit.

At first: Sometimes I have been so loaden with my Sins, that I could not tell where to rest, nor what to do; yea, at such Times I thought it would have taken away my Senses; yet at that Time, God, through Grace, hath all of a sudden, so effectually applied the Blood that was spilt at Mount *Calvary*, out of the Side of *Jesus*, unto my poor wounded guilty Conscience, that presently I have found such a sweet, solid, sober, heart-comforting Peace, that it hath made me, as if it had not been, and withal the same (I may say, and I ought to say, the Power of it) hath had such a powerful Operation upon my Soul, that I have for a Time been in a Streight and Trouble, to think that I should love and honour him no more, the Virtue of his Blood hath so constrained me.

Again: Sometimes, methinks, my Sins have appeared so big to me, that I thought one of my Sins have been as big as all the Sins of all the Men in the Nation. Aye, and of other Nations too. (*Reader*, these Things be not Fancies, for I have smarted for this Experience) but yet the least Stream of the Heart's Blood of this Man *Jesus* hath vanished all away, and hath made it to fly, to the Astonishment of such a poor Sinner; and as I said before, hath delivered me up into sweet and heavenly Peace and Joy in the Holy Ghost.

Again,

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Again, Sometimes when my Heart hath been hard, dead, slothful, blind, and senseless (which indeed are sad Frames for a poor Christian to be in) yet at such a Time when I have been in such a Case, then, hath the Blood of Christ, the precious Blood of Christ, the admirable Blood of the God of Heaven, that run out of his Body when he did hang on the Cross, so softened, enlivened, quickned, and enlightned my Soul, that truly (*Reader*) I can say, O it makes me wonder !

Again, When I have been loaden with Sin, and pestered with several Temptations, and in a very sad manner, then have I had the Trial of the *Virtue* of Christ's *Blood*, with the Trial of the Virtue of other Things : And I have found that when Tears would not do, Prayers would not do, Repentings, and all other Things could not reach my Heart : O, then, one Touch, one Drop, one Shining of the Virtue of the Blood, of that Blood that was let out with a Spear ; it hath in a very blessed manner delivered me, that it hath made me to marvel. O ! methinks it hath come with such Life, such Power, with such irresistible and marvellous Glory, that it wipes off all the Slurs, silences all the Out-cries, and quenches all the fiery Darts, and all the Flames of Hell Fire, that are begotten by the Charges of the Law, Satan, and doubtful Remembrances of my sinful Life.

Friends, As *St. Peter* saith to the *Church*, so I say to you, I have not preached to you cunningly devised Fables, in telling you of the Blood of *Christ*, and what Authority it hath had upon my Conscience : O ! no, but as *Peter* saith touching the coming of the Lord *Jesus* into the World ; so in some Measure I can say of the Blood of the

Lord Jesus Christ, that was shed when he did come into the World. There is not only my single Testimony touching this; no, but there are all the Prophets do agree, in advancing this in Writing, and also all the Saints do now declare the same, in speaking forth the Amiability, and many powerful Virtues thereof. *As for thee, by the Blood of thy Covenant* (saith God to Christ) *I have sent forth thy Prisoners out of the Pit, wherein was no Water*, Zech. ix. 11. *We have Redemption through his Blood*, Ephes. i. 7. Again, Col. i. 17. *We have Redemption through his Blood. Our Robes are washed, and made white in the Blood of the Lamb*, Rev. vii. 14. *The Devil is overcome through the Blood of the Lamb*, Rev. xii. 11. Yea, and Conscience is purged too, and that through the Blood of the Lamb, Heb. ix. 14. *We have free Recourse to the Throne of Grace through the Blood of Jesus*, Heb. x. 19. I could bring thee a Cloud of Witnesses out of all the Types and Shadows; and out of the sundry Prophets, and much more out of the New Testament, but I forbear, because I would not be too tedious to the Reader, in making too large a Digression, tho' I have committed here in this Discourse, no Transgression, for the Blood of Christ is precious Blood, 1 Pet. xviii. 19.

In the next Place I shall shew you the several Priviledges and Advantages the Man or Woman hath, that is under the Covenant of Grace, over what they have that are under the Covenant of the Law and Works.

As first, the Covenant of Grace is not grounded upon our Obedience, but upon God's Love, even his pardoning Love to us through Christ Jesus. The First Covenant it stood to be broken

or kept by us, and God's Love or Anger, to be lost, or enjoyed hereafter, as we, as Creatures, behaved our selves : But now the very Ground of the Covenant of Grace is God's Love, 'tis meer Love through Jesus Christ, *Deut. vii. 8, 9.* The Lord did not set his Love upon you, nor chuse you ; because you were more in Number than other People ; for you were the fewest of all People ; but because the Lord loves you, and because he will keep the Oath which he sware to your Fathers. Again, *Isaiab liii. 9.* In his Love, and in his Pity he redeemed them, and the Angel of his Presence saved them, *that is, Jesus Christ.* And again, *2 Tim. i. 9.* Who has saved us. — Not according to the Works of Righteousness which we have done ; but according to his own Purpote and Grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus, before the World began.

Secondly, This Love is not conveyed to us through what we have done, (as is afore proved) but through what he hath done with whom the Covenant was made, which was given us in Christ. According as he hath chosen us in Christ, Who hath blessed us with all spiritual Blessings in Heavenly Places in Christ. God, for Christ's Sake hath loved you (*2 Tim. i. 9. Eph. i. 3, 4. Eph. iv. 32.*) that is, through Christ's Doings, through Christ's Sufferings. Now, if this be but rightly understood, it doth discover abundance of Comfort to them that are within the Bonnds of the Covenant of Grace. For,

First, Here a Believer seeth he shall stand, if Christ's Doings and Sufferings stand (which is a sure Foundation) for God dealeth with him through Christ : And so, Secondly, He shall not fall, unless the Sufferings and Merits of

Christ be thrown over the Bar, being found guilty (which will never be) before the Eyes of Divine Justice. For, with him the Covenant was made, and he was the Surety of it, *Zech. ix. 11. Heb. vii. 22.* that is, As the Covenant was made with him, so he stood bound to fulfil the same: For you must understand, that the Covenant was made between the Father and the Son, long before it was accomplished, or manifestly sealed with Christ's Blood, it was made before the World began, (*Tit. i. 2. Ephes. i. 4. 1 Pet. i. 18, 19, 20.*) But the Conditions thereof were not fulfilled, until less than Two Thousand Years ago; and all that while did Jesus stand bound as a Surety (as I said before) is used to do, till the Time in which the Payment should be made. And it was by Virtue of his Suretyship (having bound himself by Covenant, to do all Things agreed on, by the Father and him) that all those of the Election that were born before he came, that they might be saved, and did enter into Rest. For the Forgiveness of Sins that were past, though it was through the Blood of Christ; yet it was also through the Forbearance of God, *Rom. iii. 25.* That is, Christ becoming Surety for those that died before his Coming, that he would indeed and in Truth, at the Fulness of Time (or at the Time appointed, *Gal. iv. iv.*) give a compleat and full Satisfaction for them according to the Tenour, or Condition of the Covenant.

Again, Secondly, The second Covenant, which Believers are under, as the Ground and Foundation, if it is safe, so the Promises thereof are better, surer, and Fuller, &c.

First, They are better, if you compare the Excellency of the One with the Excellency of the Other. The First hath promised nothing but an Earthly Paradise. Do this and thou shalt live; namely, here in an Earthly Paradise. But the Other doth bring the Promise of an Heavenly Paradise.

Secondly, As the Covenant of Works doth promise an Earthly Paradise; yet it is a Paradise or Blessing, though once obtained, yet might be lost again (for no longer than thou doest well, no longer art thou accepted of by that). O but the Promises of the New Covenant do bring unto us the Benefit of Eternal Inheritance, (*Heb. ix. 15.*) That they which are called might receive the Promise of eternal Inheritance. O rare! it is an Eternal Inheritance.

Thirdly, The Other, As it is not so good as this, so neither is it so sure as this, and therefore he calls the One, such a one as might be, and was shaken (*Heb. xii. 27.*) but this is said to be such a one that cannot be shaken: And this Word, saith he, treating of the two Covenants from *Verse* the 18th to the 24th. And this Word, yet once more, signifies the removing of those Things that are (*or may be*) shaken, as of Things that are made, that those Things that cannot be shaken (*which is the second Covenant*) may remain; for, saith he, *Verse* the 28th, which cannot be moved. Therefore ye blessed Saints, seeing you have received a Kingdom which cannot, which cannot be moved; (therefore) Let us have Grace whereby we may serve (our) God acceptably, with Reverence and Godly Fear. Thus in general, but more particularly,

First, They are surer, in that they are founded upon God's Love also, and they come to us without calling for those Things at our Hands, that may be a Means of putting of a Stop to our certain enjoying of them. The Promises under, or of the Law, they might easily be stopped by our Disobedience ; but the the Promises under the Gospel say, *If Heaven above can be measured, and the Foundation of the Earth searched out, then (and not till then) will I cast off all the Seed of Israel for all they have done.* Again, *I, even I am he that blotteth out thy Transgressions for my own Name's Sake, and will not remember thy Sins,* Isa. xliii. 25. I will make thee a Partaker of my Promise ; and that I may so do, I will take away that which would hinder ; *I will cast all your Sins into the Depths of the Sea*, that my Promise may be sure to all the Seed, and therefore saith the Apostle, when he would shew us that the New Covenant Promises were more sure than the Old ; he tells us plainly that the Law and Works are set aside, and that they are merely made ours through the Righteousness of Christ. *For the Promise that Abraham should be Heir of the World (saith he) was not to him, or to his Seed thro' the Law (or Works) but through the Righteousness of Faith : For, if they which are of the Law (or of Works) be Heirs, then Faith is made void, and the Promise made of none Effect. Therefore it is of Faith.—to the End the Promise might be made sure to all the Seed,* Rom. iv. 13, 14, 16.

Secondly, Surer, Because that as that is taken away that should hinder, so they are committed to a faithful Friend of ours in keeping :

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For all the Promises of God are in Christ; not yea and nay, but yea and Amen; certain and sure; sure, because they are in the Hand of our Head, our Friend, our Brother, our Husband; our Flesh and Bones, even in the Heart and Hand of our precious Jesus.

Thirdly, Because all the Conditions of them are already fulfilled for us by Jesus Christ, as aforesaid; every Promise that is a New Covenant Promise, if there be any Condition in it, our Undertaker hath accomplished that for us, and also giveth us such Grace as to receive the Sweetness as doth spring from them through his Obedience to every Thing required in them.

Fourthly, Surer, because that as they are grounded upon the Love of God; every Thing taken out of the Way, in the Hand of a sure Friend: And as Christ hath fulfilled every Condition as to Justification that is contained therein; so the Lord hath solemnly sworn with an Oath for our better Confidence in this Particular, For when God made a Promise to *Abraham* (and so to all Saints) because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, saying; Surely, Blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee; and so after he had patiently endured, he obtained the Promise. For Men verily swear by the greater, and an Oath for Confirmation is to them an End of all Strife (that there might be no more Doubt or Scruple concerning the certain fulfilling of the Promise) wherein God willing more abundantly to shew unto the Heirs of the Promise the Immutability of his Counsel, (or certain, constant, unchangeable Decree of God in making of the Promise, for the Comfort of his Children) confirmed it by an Oath,

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that by two immutable Things, his Promise (back'd with an Oath) wherein it is impossible for God to Lye, we might have strong Consolation, who have fled for Refuge to lay hold upon the Hope set before us, *Heb. vi. 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18.*

Fifthly, That they are better, it appears also, in that they are freer and fuller; that they are freer, it is evident, in that the one faith, no Work, no Life: Do this, and then thou shalt Live, if not, Thou shalt be damned. But the other faith, We are saved by believing in what another hath done, without the Works of the Law; Now to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the Ungodly, his Faith is counted for Righteousness, *Rom. iv. 4, 5.* The one faith, Pay me what thou owest; the other faith, I do frankly and freely forgive thee all. The one faith, Because thou hast sinned thou shalt die; the other faith, Because Christ lives thou shalt live also, *John xv.*

Secondly, And as they are freer, so they are fuller; fuller of Encouragement; fuller of Comfort; the one (to wit the Law) looks like *Pharaoh's* seven ill-favoured Kind, more ready to eat one up, than to afford us any Food. The other is like the full Grape in the Cluster, which for certain hath a glorious Blessing in it. The one faith, If thou hast sinned, turn again; the other faith, If thou hast sinned, thou shalt be damned, for all I have a Promise in me.

Thirdly, They that are of the Second, are better than they that are of the First; and it also appeareth in this. The Promises of the Law, through them we have neither Faith, nor Hope, nor the Spirit conveyed: But through the Promises of the Gospel there is all these, 1 *Peter*

1. 4. Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious Promises, that by these we might be Partakers of the Divine Nature. O therefore let us hold fast the Profession of our Faith without Wavering; for he is Faithful that promised, *Heb. x. 23.* In hope of Eternal Life (how so) because God, that cannot Lye, promised it before the World began, *Tit. i. 2.*

Fourthly, They that are in this Covenant, are in a very happy State; for though there be several Conditions in the Gospel to be done, yet *Christ Jesus* doth not look that they should be done by Man, as Man, but by his own Spirit in them, as it is written, Thou hast wrought all our Works in us and for us. Is there that Condition, they must believe? Why then, he will be both the Author and Finisher of their Faith, *Heb. xii. 2, 3.* Is there also Hope to be in his Children, he also doth, and hath given them good Hope through his Grace, *2 Theff. ii. 26.* Again, Are the People of God to behave themselves to the Glory of God the Father? Then he will work in them both to Will and to Do of his own good Pleasure, *Phil. ii. 13.*

Fifthly, Again, as he Works all our Works in us and for us, so also by Virtue of this Covenant, we have another Nature given unto us. Whereby, or by which we are made willing to be glorifying of God both in our Bodies, and in our Spirit, which are his, Thy People shall be willing in the Day of thy Power, *2 Cor. vi. 20.* *Psalms cx. 3.*

Sixthly, In the next Place, all those that are under this second Covenant, are in a wonderful safe Condition: For in case they should slip or fall, after their Conversion, into some

Sin or Sins. (For who lives and sins not, *Prov.* xxiv. 16.) yet through the Merits and Intercession of Christ Jesus, who is their Undertaker in this Covenant, they shall have their Sins pardoned, their Wounds healed, and they raised up again; which Privilege the Children of the first Covenant have not, for if they sin, they are never afterwards regarded by that Covenant. *They brake my Covenant, and I regarded them not.* Heb. viii. 9. But when he comes to speak of the Covenant of Grace, speaking first of the publick Person under the Name of *David*, he saith thus, *Psalme lxxxix.* from the 26th Verse to the 37th. *He shall cry unto me, Thou art my Father, my God, and the Rock of my Salvation. Also I will make him my First-born, higher than the Kings of the Earth. My Mercy will I keep for him for ever, and my Covenant shall stand fast with him. His Seed also will I make to endure for evermore, and his Throne as the Days of Heaven. If his Children forsake my Law, and walk not in my Judgment: If they break my Statutes, and keep not my Commandments; then will I visit their Transgression with the Rod, and their Iniquities with Stripes. Nevertheless my Loving-kindness will I not break, nor alter the Thing that is gone out of my Lips. Once have I sworn by my Holiness, that I will not lye unto David: His Seed shall endure for ever, and his Throne as the Sun before me; it shall be established for ever, as the Moon, and as a faithful Witness in Heaven. My Covenant shall stand fast with him: Mark that: As if God had said, I did not make this Covenant with*

with Man, but with my Son, and with him I will perform it ; and seeing he hath given me compleat Satisfaction, though his Children do, through Infirmary, transgress, yet my Covenant is not therefore broken, seeing he with whom it was made, standeth firm, according to the Desire of my Heart ; so that my Justice is satisfied, and my Law hath nothing to say ; for there is no want of Perfection in the Sacrifice of Christ.

If you love your Souls, and would have them live in the Peace of God, to the which you are called in one Body, even all the Believers ; then, I beseech you, seriously to ponder and labour to settle in your Souls this one Thing, that the New Covenant is not broken by our Transgressions, and that because it was not made with us. The Reason why the very Saints of God have so many up's and down's in this their Travel towards Heaven ; it is because they are so weak in the Faith of this one Thing ; for they think that if they fail in this or that particular Performance, if their Hearts be dead and cold, and their Lusts mighty and strong ; therefore God now is angry, and now he will shut them out of his Favour, now the New Covenant is broken, and now Christ Jesus will stand their Friend no longer ; now also the Devil hath Power again, and now they must have their Part in the Resurrection of Damnation ; when, alas ! the Covenant is not for all this ever the more broken, and so the Grace of God no more straightened than it was before. Therefore, I say, when thou findest that thou art weak here,

here, and failing there, backward to this Good, and thy Heart forward to that Evil; then be sure thou keep a stedfast Eye on the Mediator of this New Covenant; and be persuaded, That it is not only made with him, and his Part also fulfilled, but that he doth look upon his fulfilling of it, so as not to lay thy Sins to thy Charge, though he may as a Father chastize thee for the same. If his Children forsake my Law, and walk not in my Commandments, then will I visit their Transgressions with a Rod, and their Iniquities with Stripes. Nevertheless, *mark*, Nevertheless my loving Kindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my Faithfulness to fail. My Covenant will I not break, nor alter the Thing that is gone out of my Mouth *And what was that? Why, That his Seed shall endure for ever, and his Throne as the Days of Heaven, Psalm lxxxix. 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36.*

Seventhly, Another Privilege that the Saints have, by Virtue of the New Covenant is, That they have part of the Possession or Hold of Heaven and Glory already; and that two manner of Ways: First, The Divine Nature is conveyed from Heaven into them. And Secondly, The Human Nature (that is) the Nature of Man is received up, and entertained in, and hath got Possession of Heaven.

1. We have the first-Fruits of the Spirit (saith the Man of God) we have the Earnest of the Spirit which is instead of the whole. Which is the Earnest of our Inheritance, until the Redemption of the purchased Possession, unto the Praise of his Glory, *Rom. viii. 8, 9, 10, 11. Eph. i. 13, 14.*

2. The Nature of Man: OUR Nature is got into Glory as the first-Fruits of Mankind, as a Fore-runner to take Possession 'till we all came thither, 1 Cor. xv. 20. For the Man born at *Bethlehem* is ascended (which is part of the Lump of Mankind) into Glory, as a publick Person, as the first-Fruits, representing the whole of the Children of God. So that in some Sense it may be said, That the Saints have already taken Possession of the Kingdom of Heaven, by their Jesus, their publick Person; he being, in their Room, entered to prepare a Place for them, *John* xiv. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

I beseech you consider, When *Jesus Christ* came down from Glory, it was that he might bring us to Glory: And that he might be sure not to fail, he cloathed himself with our Nature, as if one should take a Piece out of the whole Lump instead of the whole, *Heb.* ii. 14. (until the other comes) and investeth in that Glory which he was in before he came down from Heaven: And thus is that Saying to be understood, speaking of *Christ* and his Saints, which saith, And (*he*) hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in Heavenly Places in *Christ Jesus*, *Eph.* ii. 6.

Eighthly, Again, Not only thus, but all the Power of God, (1 *Pet.* i. 5.) together with the rest of his glorious Attributes, on our Side, in that they dwell in our Nature, which is the Man *Jesus*, and doth engage for us, poor, simple, empty, nothing Creatures, as to our eternal Happiness. For in him (that is in the Man *Christ*, who is our Nature, our Head, our Root, our Flesh, our Bone) dwelleth all the Fullness of the God head bodily, *Col.* ii. 9, 10. Mark how they
are

are joined together, *In whom dwelleth the Fullness of the God-head. And ye are compleat to him.* God dwelleth compleatly in him, and you also are compleatly implanted in him, which is the Head of all Principality and Power, and all this by the Consent of the Father. *For it hath pleased the Father, that in him should all fullness dwell.* Now mark, the God-head doth not dwell in Christ Jesus for himself only, but that it may be in a Way of Righteousness conveyed to us, for our Comfort and Help in our Wants. *All Power is given unto me in Heaven and Earth,* saith he, *Mat. xxviii. 18.* And then followeth, *And lo I am with you alway, even unto the End of the World,* *Psal. lxxviii. 18, 20.* *He hath received Gifts for Men, even for the Rebels,* *John i. 16.* *Of his Fullness have we all received, and Grace for Grace,* *Col. i. 9.* And this the Saints cannot be deprived of, because the Covenant made with Christ, in every Tittle of it was so compleatly fulfilled as to Righteousness, both active and passive, that Justice cannot object any thing, Holiness now can find fault with nothing; nay, all the Power of God cannot shake any Thing that hath been done for us by the *Mediator* of the New Covenant; so that now there is no Covenant of Works to a Believer, none of the Commands, Accusations, Condemnations, or the least Tittle of the Old Covenant to be charged on any of those that are the Children of the second Covenant, no Sin to be charged, because there is no Law to be pleaded, but all is made up by our middle-Man Christ Jesus. O blessed Covenant! O blessed Privilege! Be wise therefore, O ye poor drooping Souls that are the Sons of this second Covenant. And stand
fast

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fast in the Liberty wherewith CHRIST hath made you free, and be not again entangled (nor terrified in your Consciences) with the Yoke of Bondage; neither the Commauds, Accusations, or Condemnations of the Law, of the Old Covenant, Gal. v. 1, 2.

Object. If it be so, then one need not care what they do, they may sin and sin again, seeing Christ hath made Satisfaction.

Ans. If I was to point out one that was under the Power of the Devil, and going Post-haste to Hell (for my Life) I would look no further for such a Man, than to him that would make such a Use as this of the Grace of God. What, because Christ is a Saviour, thou wilt be a Sinner! because his Grace abounds, therefore thou wilt abound in it. O wicked Wretch! Rake Hell all over, and surely I think thy Fellow will scarce be found! And let me tell thee this before I leave thee, as God's Covenant with Christ for his Children (which are of Faith) stands sure, immutable, unrevocable, and unchangeable; so also hath God taken such a Course with thee, that unless thou canst make God forswear himself, it is impossible that thou shouldst go to Heaven, dying in that Condition. *They tempted me, proved me,* and turned the Grace of God into Lasciviousness. (Compare Heb. iii. 9, 10, 11. with 1 Cor. x. from the 5th Verse to the 10th) *so I swear*, mark that, *so I swear* (and that in my Wrath too) *that they should never enter into my Rest.* No, saith God, if Christ will not serve their Turns, but they must have their Sins too, take them Devil; if Heaven will not satisfy them, take them Hell, devour them Hell, scald them, fry them, burn them, Hell. God hath more Places

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ces than one to Sinners into ; if they do not like of Heaven, he will fit them with Hell ; if they do not like Christ, they shall be forced to have the Devil. Therefore we must and will tell of the Truth of the Nature of the Covenant of the Grace of God to his poor Saints, for their Encouragement, and for their Comfort, who would be glad to leap at Christ upon any Terms ; yet therewith we can tell how through Grace, to tell the Hogs and Sons of this World, what a Hogstye there is prepared for them, even such a one that God hath prepared to put the Devil and his Angels into, is fitly prepared for them, *Mat. xxv. 41.*

Object. But if Christ hath given God a full and compleat Satisfaction, then, though I do go on in Sin, I need not fear, seeing God hath already been satisfied ; it will be Injustice in God to punish for those Sins, for which he is already satisfied by *Christ.*

Answer. Rebell, Rebell, there are some in *Christ*, and some out of him ; they that are in him have their Sins forgiven, and they themselves made new Creatures, and have the Spirit of the Son, which is a holy, loving, self-denying Spirit. And they that are thus in *Jesus Christ*, are so far off from delighting in Sin, that Sin is the greatest Thing that troubleth them ; and, O ! how willingly would they be rid of the very Thoughts of it, *Psalms cxix. 113.* It is the Grief of their Souls (when they are in a right Frame of Spirit) that they can live no more to the Honour and Glory of God, than they do ; and in all their Prayers to God, the Breathings of their Souls is as much for sanctifying Grace as pardoning Grace, that they might live a holy Life ; they would as willingly live holy here, as they would be happy in the World to come,

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come, *Phil.* iii. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21. they would as willingly be cleansed from the Filth of Sin, as to have the Guilt of it taken away; they would as willingly glorify God here, as they would be glorified by him hereafter.

2. But there are some that are out of *Christ*, being under the Law; and as for all those, let them be Civil or Prophane, they are such as God accounts Wicked; and I say, as for those, If all the Angels in Heaven can drag them before the Judgment-Seat of *Christ*, they shall be brought before it to answer for all their ungodly Deeds, *Judges* xv. and being condemned for them, if all the Fire in Hell will burn them, they shall be burned there (if they die in that Condition.) And therefore if you love your Souls, do not give Way to such a wicked Spirit. Let no Man deceive you with (*such*) vain Words (as to think, because *Christ* hath made Satisfaction to God for Sin, therefore you may live in your Sins. O! no, (God forbid that any should think so) for because for these Things cometh the Wrath of God upon the Children of Disobedience. *Ephes.* v. 6.

Thus have I (*Reader*) given thee a brief Discourse, touching the Covenant of Works, and the Covenant of Grace, also the Nature of the one, together with the Nature of the other. I have also in this Discourse, endeavoured to shew you the Condition of them that are under the Law, how sad it is, both from the Nature of the Covenant they are under, and also by the Carriage of God unto them by that Covenant. And, now, because I would bring all into as little a Compass as I can, I shall begin with the Use and Application of the whole in as brief a Way as I can, desiring the Lord to bless it to thee.

And

And first of all, let us here begin to examine a little touching the Covenant you stand before God in, whether it be the Covenant of Works, or the Covenant of Grace; and for the right doing of this, I shall lay down this Proposition; namely, That all Men naturally come into the World under the First of these, which is called the Old Covenant, or the Covenant of Works, which is the Law, and were all by Nature the Children of Wrath, even as others; which they could not be, had they not been under the Law; for there are none that are under the other Covenant that are still the Children of Wrath, but the Children of Faith, the Children of the Promise, the accepted Children, the Children not of the Bond-man, but of the Free, *Gal. iv. the four last Verses.*

Now here lieth the Question, Which of these Two Covenants art thou under, Soul?

Answer. I hope I am under the Covenant of Grace.

Question. But what Ground hast thou to think that thou art under that blessed Covenant, and not rather under the Covenant of Works, that strict, that Soul-damning Covenant?

Answer. What Ground? Why, I hope I am.

Question. But what Ground hast thou for this thy Hope? For Hope without a Ground, is like a Castle built in the Air, that will never be able to do thee any Good, but will prove like unto that spoken of in the Eighth of *Job*, Whose Hope shall be cut off, and whose Trust shall be (*like*) a Spider's Web. He shall lean upon his House, but it shall not stand, he shall hold it fast (*as thou wouldest thy Hope it's like*) but it shall not endure, *Job viii. 13, 14, 15.*

Answer.

Answ. My Hope is grounded upon the Promises, what else should it be grounded upon?

Answ. Indeed, to build my Hope upon Christ Jesus, upon God in Christ, through the Promise, and to have this Hope rightly, by the shedding abroad of the Love of God in the Heart, it is a right-grounded Hope, *Rom. v. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.*

Quest. But what Promises in the Scripture do you find your Hope built upon? And how do you know whether you do build your Hope upon the Promises in the Gospel, the Promises of the New Covenant; and not rather on the Promises of the Old Covenant; for there are Promises in that as well as in the other?

Answ. I hope that if I do well I shall be accepted; because God hath said I shall, *Gen. iv. 7.*

Rep. O Soul, if thy Hope be grounded there, thy Hope is not grounded upon the Gospel Promises, or the New Covenant, but verily upon the Old; for these Words were spoken to Cain, a Son of the Old Covenant; and they themselves are the Tenour and Scope of that; for that runs thus, *Do this, and thou shalt live. The Man that doth these Things shall live by them. If thou do well, thou shalt be accepted, Levit. xviii. 5. Ezek. xx. 11. Rom. x. 5. Gal. iii. 12. Gen. iv. 7.*

Rep. Why, truly, if a Man's doing well, and living well, and his striving to serve God as well as he can, will not help him to Christ, I do not know what will; I am sure sinning against God will not.

Quest. Did you never read that Scripture, which saith, *Israel which followed after the Law of Righteousness, hath not attained to the Law of Righteousness?* *Rom. ix. 30, 31, 32*

Object.

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Object. But doth not the Scripture say, Blessed are they that keep his Commandments, that they may have have Right to the Tree of Life, *Rev. xxii. 14.*

Answer. There is, first, therefore, to be enquired into, Whether to keep his Commandments, be to strive to keep the Law, as it is a Covenant of Works; or whether it be meant of the great Commandments of the New Testament, which are cited, 1 *John iii. 22, 23.* And whatsoever we ask we receive of him, because we keep his Commandments, and do those Things that are pleasing in his Sight. But what do you mean, *John?* Do you mean the Covenant of the Law, or the Covenant of the Gospel? Why, This is his Commandment (saith he) that we should believe on the Name of his Son Jesus Christ, and to love one another (as the Fruits of this Faith) as he gave us Commandment. If it be the Old Covenant, as a Covenant of Works, then the Gospel is but a lost Thing. If it were of Works, then no more of Grace; therefore it is not the Old Covenant, as the Old Covenant.

Quest. But what do you mean by these Words, the Old Covenant, as the Old Covenant? Explain your Meaning.

Answer. My Meaning is, That the Law is not to be looked upon for Life, so as it was handed out from Mount *Sinai*; if ever thou wouldest indeed be saved, though after thou hast Faith in Christ, thou mayest, and must solace thyself in it, and take Pleasure therein, to expresse thy Love to him, who hath already saved thee by his own Blood, without thy Obedience to the Law, either from *Sinai*, or elsewhere.

Quest. Do you think that I do mean that my Righteousness will save me without Christ's? If
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so, you mistake me, for I think not so: But this I say, I will labour to do what I can, and what I cannot do, Christ will do for me.

Ans. Ah, poor Soul, this is the wrong Way too; for this is to make Christ but a Piece of a Saviour: Thou wilt do some Thing, and *Christ* shall do the rest; thou wilt set thy own Things in the first Place, and if thou wantest at last, then thou wilt borrow of *Christ*; thou art such a one that doest *Christ* the greatest Injury of all. First, In that thou doest undervalue his Merits, by preferring of thy own Works before his. And secondly, by mingling his Works, thy dirty ragged Righteousness with his.

Quest. Why, Would you have us do nothing? Would you have us make *Christ* such a Drudge as to do all, while we sit idling still?

Answer. Poor Soul, thou makest *Jesus Christ*, in saying thou makest him a Drudge, in letting him do all: I tell thee he counts it a great Glory to do all for thee, and it is a great Dishonour unto him, for thee so much as to think otherwise. And this the Saints of God that have experienced the Work of Grace upon their Souls, do count it also the same, *Rev.* v. 9. saying, Thou art worthy to take the Book, and to open the Seals thereof, *ver.* 21. Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive Power and Riches, and Wisdom and Strength, and Honour, and Glory, and Blessing; And why so? read again the 9th *ver.* For thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God by thy (*own*) Blood. See also *Ephes.* i. 6, 7. To the Praise of the Glory of his Grace: In whom we have Redemption through his Blood.

Rep. All this we confess, that Jesus Christ died for us; but he that thinks to be saved by Christ, and liveth in his Sins, shall never be saved.

Answ. I grant that: But this I say again, a Man must not make his good Doings the lowest Round of the Ladder, by which he goeth to Heaven; that is, he that will, and shall go to Heaven, must wholly and alone, without any of his own Things, venture his precious Soul upon Jesus Christ and his Merits.

Quest. What, and come to Christ as a Sinner?

Answ. Yea, with all thy Sins upon thee, even as filthy as ever thou canst.

Quest. But is not this the Way to make Christ to loath us? You know when Children fall down in the Dirt, they do usually before they go Home, make their Cloaths as clean as they can, for fear their Parents should chide them, and so I think should we.

Answ. This Comparison is wrong applied, if you bring it to shew us how we must do when we come to Christ. He that can make himself clean, hath no need of Christ; for the Whole, the Clean and Righteous have no need of Christ; but those that are Foul and Sick. Physicians, you know, if they love to be honoured, they will not bid the Patients first make themselves Whole, and then come to them; no, but bid them come with their Sores all running on them; as the Woman with her bloody Issue, *Mark v.* and as *Mary Magdalen* with her Belly full of Devils, and the Lepers all scabbed, and that is the right coming to Jesus Christ.

Reply. Well, I hope that Christ will save me; for his Promises and Mercy are very large, and as
long

long as he hath promised to give us Life, I fear my State the less.

Ans. It is very true, Christ's Promises are very large, blessed be the Lord for ever, and also so is his Mercy; but notwithstanding all that, there are many go in at the broad Gate; and therefore I say your Business is seriously to enquire whether you are under the first or second *Covenant*; for unless you are under the second, you will never be regarded of the Lord, for as much as you are a Sinner, *Heb. viii. 9.* And the rather, because if God should be so good to you as to give you a Share in the second, you shall have all your Sins pardoned, and for certain have eternal Life, tho' you have been a great Sinner.

But do not expect that thou shalt have any Part or Share in the large Promises and Mercy of God, for the Benefit and Comfort of thy poor Soul, whilst thou art under the *Old Covenant*; because, so long thou art out of *Christ*, thro' whom God conveyed his Mercy, Grace, and Love to Sinners. *For all the Promises of God in him are Yea, and in him, Amen.* Indeed his Mercy, Grace, and Love, is very great, but its treasured up in him, given forth in him, thro' him. *But God, who is rich in Mercy, for his great Love wherewith he loved us—that he might shew the exceeding Riches of his Grace:* But which Way? *In his exceeding Kindness towards us through Christ Jesus.*

But out of *Christ* thou shalt find God, a just God, a sin-revenging God, a God that will by no Means spare the Guilty; and be sure, that every one that is found out of Jesus Christ, will be found Guilty in the Judgment Day, upon whom the Wrath of God shall smoke to their eternal Ruin.

Now therefore consider of it, and take the Counsel of the Apostle in 2 *Cor.* xiii. 5. which is, to *examine thyself, whether thou art in the Faith*, and to prove thy own self, Whether thou hast received the Spirit of Christ into thy Soul? Whether thou hast been converted? Whether thou hast been born again, and made a new Creature? Whether thou hast had thy Sins washed away in the Blood of Christ? Whether thou hast been brought from under the *Old Covenant* into the *New*; and do not make a slight Examination, for thou hast a precious Soul, either to be saved or damned?

And that thou mayest not be deceived, consider that it is one thing to be convinced, and another to be converted; one thing to be wounded, and another to be killed; and so to be made alive by the Faith of Jesus Christ. When Men are killed, they are killed to all Things they lived to before, both Sin and Righteousness, as all their old Faith, and supposed Grace, that they thought they had. Indeed the *Old Covenant* will shew thee that thou art a Sinner, and that a great one too; but the *Old Covenant*, the Law, will not shew thee without the Help of the Spirit, that thou art without all Grace by Nature: No, but in the midst of thy Troubles thou wilt keep thy self from coming to *Christ*, by persuading thy Soul, that thou art come already, and hast some Grace already. O therefore be earnest in begging the Spirit, that thy Soul may be enlightened, and the Wickedness of thy Heart discovered, that thou mayest see the miserable State that thou art in, by reason of Sin and Unbelief, which is the great condemning Sin: And so in a Sight and Sense of thy sad Condition (if God should deal

deal with thee in Severity according to thy Deservings) do thou cry to God for Faith in a *Crucified Christ*, that thou mayest have all thy Sins washed away in his Blood, and such a right Work of Grace wrought in thy Soul, that may stand in the Judgment Day.

Again Secondly, In the next Place, you know I told you that a Man might go a great way in a Profession, and have many excellent Gifts, so as to do many wondrous Works, and yet be but under the Law; from hence you may learn, not to judge yourselves to be the Children of God, *1 Cor. i.* because you may have some Gifts of Knowledge or Understanding more than others; no, for thou may'st be the knowingest Man in all the Country, as to Head-knowledge, and yet be but under the Law, and so consequently under the Curse notwithstanding that.

Now seeing it is so, that Men may have all this. and yet perish; then what will become of those that do no good at all, and have no Understanding, neither of their own Sadness, nor of Christ's Mercy? O sad! read with Understanding, *Isa. xxvii. 11.* *Therefore he that made them, will have no Mercy on them; and he that formed them, will shew no Favour.* See also *2 Thess. i. 8, 9.*

Now there is one Thing, which for want of, most People do miscarry in a very sad Manner; and that is, because they are not able to distinguish between the Nature of the Law, and the Gospel. O People, People, your being blinded here, as to the Knowledge of this, is one great Cause of the ruining of many: As *Paul* saith, *While Moses is read, or while the Law is discovered, the Veil is over their Hearts; 2 Cor. iii. 15.* that is, the Veil of Ignorance is still upon

their Hearts, so that they cannot discern neither the Nature of the Law, nor the Nature of the Gospel, they being so dark and blind in their Minds, as you may see, if you compare it with Chap. iv. 3, 4. And truly I am confident, that were you but well examined, I doubt many of you would be found so ignorant, that you would not be able to give a Word of right answer concerning either the Law, or the Gospel. Nay, my Friends, set the Case one should ask you what Time you spend, what Pains you take, to the End you may understand the Nature and Difference of these two Covenants; would you not say (if you should speak the Truth) that you did not so much as regard whether there were two or more? Would you not say, I did not think of *Covenants*, or study the Nature of them? I thought that if I had lived honestly, and did as well as I could, that God would accept of me, and have Mercy upon me, as he had on others. Ah Friends, this is the Cause of the Ruin of thousand, for if they are blinded to this, both the right Use of the Law, and also of the Gospel, is hid from their Eyes; and so for certain they will be in danger of perishing most miserably (poor Souls that they are) unless God of his meer Mercy and Love, doth rend the Veil from off their Hearts; the Veil of Ignorance, for that is it which doth keep these poor Souls in this besotted and blindfolded Condition, in which if they die, they may be lamented for, but not helped; they may be pitied, but not preserved from the Stroke of God's eternal Vengeance.

In the next Place, if you would indeed be delivered from the first into the second Covenant,

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nant, I do admonish you to the observing of these following Particulars.

First, Have a Care that you do not content yourselves, though you do good Works (that is, which in themselves are good) in, and with a Legal Spirit, which are done these Ways as follow.

First, If you do any Thing commanded in Scripture, and in your doing of it, do think that God is well pleased therewith, because you, as you are Religious Men do the same : Upon this Mistake was *Paul* himself in danger of being destroyed ; for he thought, because he was zealous, and one of the strictest Sects for Religion, therefore God would have been good unto him, and have accepted his Doings, as it is clear, for he counted them his Gain, *Philippians* iii. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

Now this is done thus. When a Man doth think, that because he thinks he is more sincere, more liberal, with more Difficulty, or to the weakening of his Estate ; I say, if a Man because of this, doth think that God accepteth his Labour, it is done from an *Old Covenant Spirit*.

Again, Some Men may think, that they shall be heard, because they have Prayer in their Families, because they can pray long, and speak Expressions, or express themselves excellently in Prayer, that because they have great Enlargements in Prayer : I say, that therefore to think that God doth delight in their Doings, and accept their Work, this is from a Legal Spirit.

Again, Some Men think, that because their Parents have been Religious before them, and

have been indeed the People of God, they think if they also do as to the outward observing of that which they learned from their Fore-runners, that therefore God doth accept them : But this also is from a wrong Spirit ; and yet how many are there in *England* at this Day, that think the better of themselves, meerly upon that Account ; Aye, and think the People of God ought to think so too ; not understanding that it is ordinary, for an *Eli* to have an *Hophni* and a *Phineas*, both Sons of *Belial* : Also a good *Samuel* to have a perverse Offspring ; likewise *David* an *Absalom*. I say, their being ignorant of, or else negligent in regarding this, they do think that because they do spring from such and such, as the *Jews* in their *Generations* did, that therefore they have a Privilege with God more than others, when there is no such Thing, *John* viii. 33, 34, 35. *Mat.* iii. 7, 8, 9. but for certain, if the same Faith be not in them, which was in their Fore-runners, to lay hold of the Christ of God, in the same Spirit as they did, they must utterly perish, for all their high Conceits that they have of themselves.

Secondly, When People come into the Presence of God, without having their Eye upon their Divine Majesty, through the Flesh and Blood of the Son of *Mary*, the Son of God ; then also do they come before God, and do whatsoever they do from a Legal Spirit, an Old Covenant Spirit. As for Instance, you have some People, it's true, that will go to Prayer (in Appearance very fervently) and will plead very hard with God, that he would grant them their Desires, pleading their Want, and the Abundance thereof ; they will also
plead

plead with God his great Mercy, and also his free Promises ; but yet they neglecting the aforesaid Body, or Person of Christ, the Righteous Lamb of God to appear before him in. I say, in thus doing, they do not appear before the Lord, no otherwise than in an Old Covenant Spirit ; for they go to God only as a merciful Creator, and they themselves as his Creatures ; not as he is their Father in the Son, and they his Children by Regeneration through the Lord Jesus. Aye, and though they may call God their Father in the Notion (not knowing what they say, only having learned such Things by Tradition) as the Pharisees did ; yet Christ will have his Time to say to them, even to their Faces, as he did once to the *Jews*. Your Father (for all this your Profession) is the Devil, to their own Grief and everlasting Misery, *John* viii. 44.

The third Thing that is to be observed, if we would not be under the Law, or do Things in a Legal Spirit is this ; to have a Care that we do none of the Works of the holy Law of God, for Life, or Acceptance with him ; no, nor of the Gospel neither. To do the Works of the Law, to the End we may be accepted of God, or that we may please him, and to have our Desires of him, is to do Things from a Legal or Old Covenant Spirit, and that is expressly laid down, where it is said, *To him that worketh, is the Reward not reckoned of Grace, but of Debt* ; that is, he appears before God through the Law, and his Obedience to it, (*Rom.* iv. 4, 5. And again, though they be in themselves Gospel-Ordinances, as Baptism, Breaking of Bread, Hearing, Praying, Meditating, or the like ; yet, I say, if

they be not done in a right Spirit, they are thereby used as a Hand by the Devil, to pull thee under the Covenant of Works, as in former times he used Circumcision, which was no Part of the Covenant of Works, the Ten Commands, but a Seal of the Righteousness of Faith; yet I say, they being done in a Legal Spirit, the Soul was thereby brought under the Covenant of Works, and so most miserably destroyed unawares to itself, and that because there was not a right Understanding of the Nature and Terms of the said Covenant. And so it is now, Souls being ignorant of the Nature of the Old Covenant, do even by their subjecting to several Gospel-Ordinances, run themselves under the Old Covenant, and fly off from Christ, even when they think they are coming closer to him: (O miserable!) If you would know when or how this was done, whether in one Particular or more, I shall shew you as followeth.

I. That Man doth bring himself under the Covenant of Works, by Gospel-Ordinances, when he cannot be persuaded that God will have Mercy upon him, except he do yield Obedience to such or such a particular Thing commanded in the World; this is the very same Spirit that was in the false Brethren spoken of, (*Acts xv. Gal. the whole Epistle*) whose Judgment was, that unless such and such Things were done, *they could not be saved.* And now-a-Days we have also some that say, unless your Infants be baptized, they cannot be saved; and others say, unless you be rightly baptized, you have no Ground to be assured that you are Believers, or Members of Churches; which is so far off from being so good as a Legal Spirit, that

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it is the Spirit of Blasphemy; as is evident, because they do reckon that the Spirit, Righteousness, and Faith of Jesus, and the Confession thereof, is not sufficient to declare Men to be Members of the Lord Jesus; when on the other Side, tho' they be rank Hypocrites, yet if they do yield an outward Subjection to this or that, they are counted presently communicable Members; which doth clearly discover, that there is not so much Honour given to the putting on the Righteousness of the Son of God, as there is to that which a Man may do, and yet go to Hell within an Hour after; nay in the very doing of it, doth shut himself for ever from Jesus Christ.

2. Men may do things from a Legal or Old Covenant-Spirit, when they content themselves with their doing of such and such a thing; as Prayers, Reading, Hearing, Baptism, breaking of Bread, or the like; I say, when they can content themselves with the Thing done, and sit down at ease and content, because the Thing is done. As for Instance, some Men, they being persuaded that such and such a thing is their Duty, and that unless they do do it, God will not be pleased with them, nor suffer them to be Heirs of his Kingdom; they from this Spirit do rush into, and do the Thing, which being done, they are without doubt in a happy Condition, because they have done such Things, like unto a Pharisee, who because he had done this and the other thing, said therefore, in a bragging Way, *Lord, I thank thee that I am not as this Publican; for I have done thus and thus*; when alas, the Lord gives him never a good Word for his Labour, but rather a Reproof.

3. That Man doth act from a Legal Spirit, who maketh the strictness of his walking the Ground of his Assurance for Eternal Life. Some Men, all the Ground they have to believe that they shall be saved, it is, because they walk not so loose as their Neighbours, they are not so bad as others are, and therefore they question not but that they shall do well; now this is a false Ground, and a Thing that is verily Legal, and favours only of some slight and shallow Apprehensions of the Old Covenant: (I call them shallow Apprehensions) because they are not right and sound, and are such as will do the Soul no good, but beguile it, in that the Knowledge of the Nature of this Covenant doth not appear to the Soul, only some commanding Power it hath on the Soul, which the Soul endeavouring to give it self up unto, it doth find some Peace and Content, and especially if it find itself to be pretty willing to yield itself to its Commands; and is not this the very Ground of thy hoping that God will save thee from the Wrath to come? If one should ask thee what Ground thou hast to think thou shalt be saved? wouldest thou not say, truly, because I have left my Sins, and because I am more incli-

*Do not think
that I am a-
gainst the Or-
der of the Go-
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nable to do good, and to learn, and get more Knowledge: I endeavour to walk in Church-Order (as they call it) and therefore I hope God hath done a good Work for me, and I hope will save my Soul? Alas, alas, this is a very Trick of the Devil, to make Souls build the Ground of their Salvation upon their strictness, and abstaining from the Wickedness of their former Lives,

Lives, and because they desire to be stricter and stricter. Now if you would know such a Man or Woman, you shall find them in this Frame ; namely, when they think their Hearts are good, then they think also that Christ will have Mercy upon them ; but when their Corruptions work, then they doubt and scruple, until again they have their Hearts more ready to do the things contained in the Law and Ordinances of the Gospel. Again, such Men do commonly cheer up their Hearts, and encourage themselves still to hope all shall be well, and that because they are not so bad as the rest, but more inclinable than they, a saying, *I am glad I am not as this Publican, but better than he, more righteous than he*, Luke xviii. 11.

4. That is a Legal and Old Covenant-Spirit, that secretly persuades the Soul, that if ever it will be saved by Christ, it must first be fitted for Christ, by its getting of a good Heart and good Intentions to do this, and that for Christ ; I say, that the Soul when it comes to Christ, may not be rejected, or turned off, when indeed and in Truth, this is the very Way for the Soul to turn it self from Christ, instead of turning to him ; for such a Soul looks upon Christ, rather to be a painted Saviour or a Cypher, than a very, and real Saviour. Friend, if thou canst fit thyself, what need hast thou of Christ ? If thou canst get Qualifications to carry to Christ, that thou mightest be accepted, thou doest not look to be *accepted in the Beloved*. Shall I tell thee ? Thou art as if a Man should say, I will make myself clean, and then I will go to Christ that he may wash me ; or like to a Man possessed, that will first cast the Devils out of himself, and

— then come to Christ for Cure for him. Thou
 — must therefore, if thou wilt so lay hold of Christ,
 — as not to be rejected by him; I say, thou must
 — come to him as the basest in the World, more fit-
 — ter to be damned, if thou hadst thy Right, than
 — to have the least Smile, Hope, or Comfort from
 — him: Come with the Fire of Hell in thy Consci-
 — ence; come with thy Heart hard, dead, cold, full
 — of Wickedness and Madnes against thy own Sal-
 — vation; come as renouncing all thy Tears, Pray-
 — ers, Watchings, Fastings; come as a Blood-red
 — Sinner; do not stay from Christ, till thou hast a
 — greater Sense of thy own Misery, nor of the Re-
 — ality of God's Mercy; do not stay while thy
 — Heart is softer, and thy Spirit in a better Frame,
 — but go against thy Mind, and against the Mind of
 — the Devil and Sin, throw thyself down at the Foot
 — of Christ, with a Halter about thy Neck, and say,
 — Lord Jesus, hear a Sinner, a hard-hearted Sinner,
 — a Sinner that deserveth to be damned, to be cast
 — into Hell; and resolve never to return, or to give
 — over crying unto him, till thou do find that he
 — hath washed thy Conscience from dead Works
 — with his Blood virtually, and cloathed thee with
 — his own Righteousness, and made thee compleat
 — in himself; this is the Way to come to Christ.

The Use for the second Doctrine.

Now a few Words to the second Doctrine,
 and so I shall draw towards a Conclusion: The
 Doctrine doth contain in it very much Comfort
 to thy Soul, who art a New Covenant Man,
 or one of those who are under the New Cove-
 nant.

There is, first, Pardon of Sin. And, secondly,
 The

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The Manifestation of the same. And, Thirdly, A Power to cause thee to persevere through Faith to the very End of thy Life.

There is first Pardon of Sin, which is not in the Old Covenant; for in that there is nothing but Commands, and if not obey'd, condemned. O, but there is a Pardon of Sin, even of all thy Sins, against the First and Second Covenant, under which thou art, and that freely upon the Account of Jesus Christ the Righteous, he having in thy Name, Nature, and in the Room of thy Person, fulfilled all the whole Law in himself for thee, and freely giveth it unto thee: O, tho' the Law be a Ministration of Death and Condemnation, yet the Gospel, under which thou art, is the Ministration of Life and Salvation, 2 *Cor.* iii. 6, 7, 8, 9. Tho' they that live and die under the First Covenant, God regardeth them not, *Heb.* viii. 9. Yet they that are under the Second are as the Apple of his Eye, *Deut.* xxxii. 10. *Psa.* xvii. 8. *Zech.* ii. 8. Though they that are under the First, the Law, are called to *Blackness, and Darknes, and Tempest, the Sound of a Trumpet, and a burning Mountain, which Sight was so terrible, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake,* *Heb.* xii. 18, 19, 20, 21. Yet you are come to Mount Sion, to the City of the living God, to the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable Company of Angels. To the general Assembly and Church of the first-born, whose Names are written in Heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the Spirits of just Men made perfect; and to Jesus (to blessed Jesus) the Mediator of the New Covenant, and to the Blood of sprinkling, which speaketh better Things than that of Abel, *Heb.* xii. 22, 23, 24. even the Forgiveness of Sins, *Eph.* i. 7.

2. The

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2. The Covenant that thou art under doth allow of Repentance, in case thou chance to slip or fall, by sudden Temptations, (*Rev. ii. 5.*) but the Law allows of none, (*Gal. iii. 10.*) The Covenant that thou art under, allows thee Strength also; but the Law is only a Sound of Words, commanding Words, but no Power is given by them to fulfil the Things commanded, *Heb. xii. 19.* Thou that art under this Second, art made a Son; but they that are under the First, are Slaves and Vagabonds, *Gen. iv. 12.* Thou that art under this, hast a Mediator, that is to stand between Justice and thee, *1 Tim. ii. 5.* But they under the other, their Mediator is turned an Accuser, and speaketh most bitter Things against their Souls, *John v. 45.* Again, the Way that thou hast into Paradise, is a new and Living Way; mark, a Living Way, *Heb. x. 20.* But they that are under the Old Covenant, their Way into Paradise, is a new and living Way; mark, a Living Way, *Heb. x. 20.* But they that are under the Order of the Old Covenant, their Way into Paradise is a killing and destroying Way, *Gen. iii. 24.* Again, Thou hast the Righteousness of God to appear before God withal, *Phil. iii. 9.* But they under the Old Covenant, have nothing but the Righteousness of the Law which Paul counts Dirt and Dung, *Phil. iii. 7, 8.* Thou hast that which will make thee perfect; but the other will not do so, *Heb. vii. 19.* *The Law makes nothing perfect; but the bringing in of a better Hope (which is the Son of God) did, by which we draw nigh to God.*

3. The New Covenant promiseth thee a new Heart, (as I said before) *Ezek xxxvi. 26.* but the Old Covenant promiseth none; and

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a new Spirit, but the Old Covenant promiseth none. The New Covenant conveyeth Faith, *Gal. iii.* but the Old one conveyeth none. Thro' the New Covenant the Love of God is conveyed into the Heart, *Rom. v.* but thro' the Old Covenant there is conveyed none of it savingly through Jesus Christ. The New Covenant doth not only give a Promise of Life, but also with that, the Assurance of Life; but the Old one giveth none. The Old Covenant wrought Wrath in us, and to us, *Rom. iv. 15.* but the New One worketh Love, *Gal. v. 6.* Thus much for the first Use.

Secondly, As all these, and many more Privileges, do come to thee, through, or by the New Covenant; and that thou mightest not doubt of the Certainty of these glorious Privileges, God hath so orde.ed it, that they do all come to thee by Way of Purchase, being obtained for thee, ready to thy Hand, by that one Man Jesus, who is the Mediator, or the Person that hath principally to do, both with God and thy Soul, in the things pertaining to this Covenant; so that now thou mayest look on all the glorious things that are spoken of in the New Covenant, and say, all these must be mine; I must have a Share in them; Christ hath purchased them for me, and given them to me. Now I need not to say, O! but how shall I come by them? God is Holy, I am a Sinner; God is just, and I have offended; no, but thou mayest say, though I am vile and deserve nothing, yet Christ is Holy, and he serveth all Things; though I have so provoked God by breaking his Law, that he could not in Justice look upon me, yet Christ hath so glo-

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gloriously paid the Debt, that now God can say, Welcome Soul, I will give thee Grace, I will give thee Glory, thou shalt lie in my Bosom, and go no more out ; my Son hath pleased me, he hath satisfied the loud Cries of the Law and Justice, that called for speedy Vengeance on thee.

He hath fulfilled the whole Law, he hath brought in everlasting Righteousness, he hath overcome the Devil, he hath washed away thy Sins with his most precious Blood, he hath destroyed the Power of Death, and triumphs over all the Enemies.

1 Cor. xv. 56, 56, 57. This he did in his own Person, as a common Jesus, for all Persons, in their stead, even for so many as shall come in to him ; for this Victory I gave to them, his Righteousness I gave to them, his Merits I bestow on them, and look upon them holy, harmless, undefiled, and for ever comely in my Eye, through the Victory of the Captain of their Salvation.

And that thou mayest in Deed and in Truth, not only hear and read this glorious Doctrine, but be found one that hath the Life of it in thy Heart, thou must be much in studying of the two Covenants ; the Nature of the one, and the Nature of the other, and the Conditions of them that are under them both. Also thou must be well grounded in the Manner of the Victory and Merits of Christ, how they are made thine. And here thou must in the first Place believe, *that the Babe that was born of Mary, lay in a Manger at Bethlehem, in the Time of Cæsar Augustus ; that he, that Babe, that Child, was the very Christ.* Secondly, Thou must believe that

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that in the Days of *Tiberius Cæſar*, when *Herod* was *Tetrarch* of *Galilee*, and *Pontius Pilate* Governor of *Judea*, that in thoſe Days he was crucified, or hanged on a Tree between two Thieves, by which Computation, or according to the beſt Account, is above ſixteen hundred Years ſince. Thirdly, thou muſt alſo believe, that when he did hang upon that Croſs of Wood, on Mount *Calvary*, that then he did die there for the Sins

* of thoſe that did die before he was crucified, alſo for their Sins that were alive at the time of his crucifying, and alſo, that he did by

** This is the Doctrine that I will live and die by, and be willing to be damned if it ſaves me not. I am not aſham'd of the Goſpel of Chriſt, for it is the Power of God to Salvation; therefore I Preach Chriſt Crucified, to the Jews a Stumbling-block, and to the Greeks Fooliſhneſs, Rom. i. 16. 1 Cor. i. 23.*

that one Death give Satisfaction to God for all thoſe that ſhould be born and believe in him after his Death, even unto the World's End. I ſay, this thou muſt believe upon Pain of eternal Damnation, that by that one Death, that when he did die, he did put an End to the Curſe of the Law and Sin, and at that time by his Death on the Croſs, and by his Reſurrection out of *Joſeph's* Sepulchre, he did bring in a ſufficient Righteouſneſs to clothe thee withal compleatly. For by one Offering he hath for ever perfected them that are ſanctified, not that he ſhould often offer himſelf; for then muſt he often have ſuffered ſince the Foundation of the World; but now ONCE in the End of the World hath he appeared to put (or do) away Sin by the Sacrifice of himſelf, Namely, when he hanged on the Croſs, For

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it is by the Offering up of the Body of (this blessed) Jesus Christ ONCE for all. Indeed, other Priests may offer often times Sacrifices and Offerings which can never take away

Heb. x. 14.

Heb. ix. 24, 25.

Sins ; but this Man (this Jesus, this anointed and appointed Sacrifice) when he had offered ONE Sacrifice for Sins, for ever sat down on the Right Hand of God.

But because thou in thy Pursuit after the Faith of the Gospel, wilt be sure to meet with Devils, Hereticks, particular Corruptions, as Unbelief, Ignorance, the Spirit of Works, animated on by Suggestions, false Conclusions, with damnable Doctrines, I shall therefore briefly, besides what hath been already said, speak a Word or two more before I leave thee, of further Advice, especially concerning these two Things.

First, How thou art to conceive of the Saviour.

Secondly, How thou art to make Application of him.

First, For the Saviour, thou must look upon him to be very God, and very Man ; not Man only, nor God only, but God and Man in one Person, both Natures joined together, for the putting him in a Capacity to be a suitable Saviour : Suitable, I say, to answer both Sides and Parties, with whom he had to do in the Office of his Mediatorship, and Being of a Saviour.

Secondly, Thou must not only do this, but thou must also consider and believe, that even what was done by Jesus Christ, *it was not done by one Nature, without the other ; but thou must consider, that both Natures, both the Godhead and the Manhood did gloriously concur and join together*

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ther in the Undertaking of the Salvation of our Bodies and Souls ; not that the Godhead undertook any thing without the Manhood, neither did the Manhood do any thing without the Virtue and Union of the Godhead ; and thou must of Necessity do this, otherwise thou canst not find any sound Ground and Footing for thy Soul to rest upon.

For if thou look upon any of these asunder ; that is to say, the Godhead without the Manhood, or the Manhood without the Godhead, thou wilt conclude, that what was done by the Godhead, was not done for Man, being done without the Manhood ; or else, that that which was done with the Manhood, could not answer Divine Justice, in doing what it did, by the Virtue, and in Union with the Godhead ; for it was the Godhead that gave Virtue and Value to the Suffering of the Manhood, and the Manhood being joined therewith, that giveth us an Interest into the heavenly Glory and Comforts of the Godhead.

What Ground can a Man have to believe that Christ is his Saviour, if he do not believe that he suffered for Sin in his Nature ; And what Ground also can a Man have, to think that God the Father is satisfied, being infinite, if he believe not also, that he who gave the Satisfaction, was equal to him who was offended.

Therefore, Beloved, when you read of the Offering of the Body of the Son of Man for our Sins, then consider that he did it in Union with, and by the Help of the Eternal Godhead. *How much more shall the Blood of Christ, who, through the Eternal Spirit, offered himself without Spot to God, to purge your Consciences from dead Works ? &c.*

And

And when thou readeſt of the glorious Works and Splendor of the Godhead in Chriſt, then conſider that all that was done by the Godhead, it was done as it had Union and Communion with the Manhood. And then thou ſhalt ſee that the Devil is overcome by God-man, Sin, Death, Hell, the Grave, and all overcome by Jeſus, God-man, and then thou ſhalt find them overcome indeed. They muſt needs be overcome, when God doth overcome them ; and we have good Ground to hope the Victory is ours, when in our Nature they are overcome.

2. The ſecond Thing is, how to apply, or to make Application of this Chriſt to the Soul. And for this there is to be conſidered the following Particulars.

First, That when Chriſt Jeſus did thus appear, being born of *Mary*, he was looked upon by the Father, as if the Sin of the whole World was upon him ; nay, further, God did look upon him, and account him the Sin of Man. *He hath made him to be Sin for us*, 2 Cor. v. 21. that is, God made his Son Jeſus Chriſt our Sin, or reckoned him to be, not only a Sinner, but the very Bulk of Sin in the whole World, and condemned him ſo ſeverely, as if he had been nothing but Sin. *For what the Law could not do, in that it was weak through the Fleſh, God ſent forth his Son in the Likeneſs of ſinful Fleſh, and for Sin condemned Sin in the Fleſh.* That is, for our Sins, condemned his Son Jeſus Chriſt ; as if he had in Deed and in Truth been our very Sin, and yet altogether without Sin, 2 Cor. v. 21. Rom. viii. 3. Therefore, as to the taking away of thy Curſe, thou muſt reckon him to be made Sin for thee. And as to his being thy
Juſti-

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Justification, thou must reckon him to be thy Righteousness; for, saith the Scripture, *He (that is God) hath made HIM to be SIN for us, tho' he knew no Sin, that WE might be made the RIGHTEOUSNESS of God in HIM.*

Secondly, Consider for whose sakes all this glorious Design of the Father and the Son was brought to pass, and that you will find to be for Man, for sinful Man, 2 Cor. viii. 9.

Thirdly, The Terms on which it is made ours; and that you will find to be a free Gift, meerly arising from the tender-heartedness of God. *You are justified freely by his Grace through the Redemption that is in Christ, whom God hath set forth to be a Propitiation through Faith in his Blood, &c.*

Fourthly, How Men are to reckon it theirs, and that it is upon the same Terms which God doth offer it, which is freely, as they are worthless and undeserving Creatures, as they are without all Good, and also unable to do any Good. This, I say, is the right Way of applying the Merits of Christ to thy Soul, for they are freely given to thee a poor Sinner, not for any Thing that is in thee, or done by thee; but freely, as thou art a Sinner, and so standest in absolute need thereof.

And Christian, Thou art not in this Thing to follow thy Sense and Feeling, but the very Word of God. The Thing that doth to the People of God the greatest Injury; it is their too little hearkening to what the Gospel saith, and their too much giving Credit to what the Law, Sin, the Devil, and Conscience saith; and upon this very Ground to conclude, that because there is the Certainty of Guilt upon the Soul,

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Soul, therefore there is also for certain, by Sin, Damnation to be brought upon the Soul. This is now to set the Word of God aside, and to give credit to what is formed by the contrary : But thou must give more credit to one Syllable of the written Word of the Gospel, than thou must give to all the Saints and Angels in Heaven and Earth ; much more to the Devil and thy own guilty Conscience.

Let me give you a Parable. There was a certain Man that had committed Treason against his King ; but for as much as the King had Compassion upon him, he sent him by the Hand of a faithful Messenger, a Pardon under his own Hand and Seal ; but in the Country where this poor Man dwelt, there was also many that sought to trouble him, by often putting him in mind of his Treason, and the Law that was to be executed on the Offender. Now which Way should this Man so honour his King, but as believing his Hand-writing, which was the Pardon ; certainly he would honour him more by so doing, than to regard all the Clamours of his Enemies continually against him.

Just thus it is here, thou having committed Treason against the King of Heaven, he, through Compassion for Christ's sake, hath sent thee a Pardon ; but the Devil, the Law, and thy Conscience, do continually seek to disturb thee, by bringing thy Sins afresh into thy Remembrance : But now, wouldest thou honour thy King, why then, *He that believeth the RECORD that God hath given of his Son, hath set to his SEAL that God is true. And this is the Record, that God hath given to US*

eternal

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eternal Life, and this Life is in his Son. 1 John

v. 11, 12. And therefore, my Brethren, seeing God our Father hath sent us damnable Traitors a Pardon from Heaven (even all the Promises of the Gospel) and hath also sealed to the Certainty of it with the Heart's Blood of his dear Son; let us not be daunted, tho' our Enemies with terrible Voices do bring our former Life ever so often into our Remembrance.

Object. But, saith the Soul, how if after I have received a Pardon, I should commit Treason again? What should I do then?

Answer. Set the Case thou hast committed Abundance of Treason, he hath by him Abundance of Pardons. *Let the Wicked forsake his Way, and the unrighteous Man his Thoughts, and let him return to the Lord, and he will have Mercy upon him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

Sometimes I myself have been in such a Streight, that I have been (almost) driven to my Wits ends with a Sight and Sense of the Greatness of my Sins; but calling to mind that God was God in his Mercy, Pity, and Love, as well as in his Holiness, Justice, &c. And again, considering the Ability of the Satisfaction that was given to Holiness and Justice, to the End there might be Way made for Sinners to lay hold of this Mercy; I say, considering this, when tempted to doubt and despair, I have answered in this manner.

“ Lord, Here is one of the greatest Sinners
“ that ever the Ground bare. A Sinner against
“ the Law, and a Sinner against the Gospel. I have
“ sinned against Light, and I have sinned against
“ Mercy; and now, Lord, the Guilt of them breaks my
“ Heart, the Devil also
“ he

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“ he would have me despair, telling of me that
 “ thou art so far from hearing my Prayers in this
 “ my Distress, that I cannot anger thee worse, than
 “ to call upon thee; for, saith he, thou art re-
 “ solved for ever to damn, and not to grant me
 “ the least of thy Favour; yet Lord, I would fain
 “ have Forgiveness. And thy Word, tho’ much
 “ may be inferred from it against me; yet it
 “ saith, *If I come unto thee thou wilt in no wise cast*
 “ *me out.* Lord, shall I honour thee most by be-
 “ believing thou canst pardon my Sins, or by be-
 “ lieving thou canst not? Shall I honour thee
 “ most by believing thou wilt pardon my Sins, or
 “ by believing thou wilt not? Shall I honour the
 “ Blood of thy Son also by despairing, that the
 “ Virtue thereof is not sufficient, or by believ-
 “ ing that it is sufficient to purge me from all
 “ my Blood-red and Crimson Sins? Surely, thou
 “ that couldest find so much Mercy as to par-
 “ don *Manasseh, Mary Magdalen, the three*
 “ *Thousand Murderers, persecuting Paul,*
 “ *Murderous and Adulterous David, and*
 “ *blaspheming Peter,* thou that offeredst Mer-
 “ cy to *Simon Magus, a Witch,* and didst re-
 “ ceive the *Astrologers and Conjurers* in the
 “ nineteenth of *Acts,* thou hast Mercy enough
 “ for one poor Sinner. Lord, set the Case my
 “ Sins were bigger than all these, and I less
 “ deserved Mercy than any of these: Yet thou
 “ hast said in thy Word, that he that *cometh*
 “ *to thee thou wilt in no wise cast out.*” And
 God hath given Comfort to my Soul, even to
 such a Sinner as I am; and I tell you, there
 is no Way so to honour God, and to beat out
 the Devil, as to stick to the Truth of God’s
 Word,

Word, and the Merits of Christ's Blood by believing. *When Abraham believed* (even against Hope and Reason) *he gave Glory to God*, Rom. iv. *And this is our Victory, even our Faith. Believe, and all things are possible to you. He that believeth shall be saved. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting Life, and shall never perish, neither shall any Man pluck them out of my Father's Hands,* 1 John v. 4.

And if thou dost indeed believe this, thou wilt not only confess him as the Quakers do ; That is, that he was born at *Bethlehem*, of *Mary*, suffered on *Mount Calvary* under *Pontius Pilate*, was dead and buried, rose again, and ascended, &c. For all this they confess, and in the midst of their Confession they do verily deny that his Death on *Mount Calvary* did give satisfaction to God for the Sins of the World ; and that his Resurrection out of *Joseph's* Sepulchre, is the Cause of our Justification in the Sight of God, Angels, and Devils : But, I say, if thou dost believe these Things indeed, thou dost believe that then, so long ago, even before thou wast born, he did bear thy Sins in his own Body, which then was hanged on the Tree, (and never before nor since) that thy old Man was then crucified with him, namely, in the same Body then crucified, (see 1 Pet. ii. 24. and Rom. vi. 6.) This is Nonsense to them that believe not ; but if thou do indeed believe thou seest it so plain, and yet such a Mystery, that it makes thee wonder.

But in the Third Place, this glorious Doctrine of the New Covenant, and the Mediator thereof, will serve for the comforting, and the maintaining of the Comfort of the Chil-

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dren of the New Covenant this Way also ; that is, that he did not only die and rise again, but that he did ascend in his own Person into Heaven, to take Possession thereof for *me*, to prepare a Place there for *me*, standeth there in the second Part of his Suretyship to bring *me* safe in *my* coming thither, and to present *me* in a glorious Manner, *without Spot or Wrinkle, or any such thing* ; that he is there exercising of his Priestly Office for *me*, pleading the Perfection of his own Righteousness for *me*, and the Virtue of his Blood for *me*. That he is there ready to answer the Accusations of the Law, Devil, and Sin for *me*. Here thou mayest through Faith look the very Devil in the Face, and rejoyce, saying, O Satan ! I have a precious Jesus, a Soul-comforting Jesus, a Sin pardoning Jesus. Here thou mayest hear the biggest Thunder-crack that the Law can give, and yet not be daunted. Here thou mayest say, O Law ! thou mayest roar against Sin, but thou canst not reach *me*, thou mayest curse and condemn, but not *my Soul* ; for I have a righteous Jesus, a holy Jesus, a Soul-saving Jesus ; and he hath delivered me from thy Threats, from thy Curses, from thy Condemnation : I am out of / thy Reach, and out of thy Bounds, I am brought into another Covenant ; under better Promises of Life and Salvation, free Promises to comfort me without my Merit, even through the Blood of Jesus, the Satisfaction given to God for me by him ; therefore, though thou layest my Sins to my Charge, and sayest thou wilt prove me guilty ; yet so long as Christ is above Ground, and hath brought in everlasting Righteousness, and given that to me, I shall not fear thy Threats,

Threats, thy Charges, thy Soul-scaring Denunciations ; my Christ is all, hath done all, and will deliver me from all that thou, and whatsoever else can bring an Accusation against me. Thus also thou may'st say, when Death assaulteth thee, *O Death, where is thy Sting ?* Thou may'st bite indeed, but thou can'st not devour ; I have Comfort by and thro' the one Man Jesus ; Jesus Christ, he hath taken thee Captive, and taken away thy Strength, he hath pierced thy Heart, and let out all thy Soul-destroying Poison ; therefore, though I see thee, I am not afraid of thee, though I feel thee, I am not daunted, for thou hast lost thy Sting in the Side of the Lord Jesus ; through him I overcome thee, and set Foot upon thee. Also, O Satan ! though I hear thee grumble, and make a hellish Noise, and tho' thou threaten me very highly ; yet my Soul shall triumph over thee, so long as Christ is alive, and can be heard in Heaven ; so long as he hath broken thy Head, and won the Field of thee ; so long as thou art in Prison, and canst not have thy Desire. I therefore, when I hear thy Voice, do pitch my Thoughts on Christ my Saviour, and do hearken to what he will say, for he will speak Comfort ; he saith, he hath got the Victory, and doth give to me the Crown, and causeth me to triumph through his most glorious Conquest.

Nay, my Brethren, the Saints under the Levitical Law, who had not the New Covenant sealed, or confirmed any further than by Promise that it should be ;

* I say, they, when they

** Shall not we then that see all Things already done before us, make it a strong Argument to increase our Faith ?*

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Thought of the glorious Privileges that God had promised should come, though at that Time they were not come, but seen afar off, how confidently were they perswaded of them, and embraced them, and were so fully satisfied as touching the Certainty of them, that they did not stick at the Parting with all for the Enjoying of them, *Heb. xi.* How many Times doth *David* in the *Psalms* admire, triumph, and perswade others to do also, through the Faith that he had in the Thing that was to be done? Also *Job*, in what Faith doth he say he should see his Redeemer, though he had not then shed one Drop of Blood for him; yet because he had prom-

** For they were as so many sure Promises with a Remembrance in them, also for the better Satisfaction of them that believed them.*

ised so to do; and this was signified * by the Blood of Bulls and Goats? Also *Samuel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Zechariah, &c.* how gloriously in Confidence did they speak of Christ and his Death, Blood, Conquest, and everlasting Priest-hood, even before he did manifest himself in the Flesh which he took of the Virgin? We that have lived since Christ, have more Ground to hope than they under the Old Covenant had (though they had the Word of the Just God for the Ground of their Faith,) mark, they had only the Promises, that he should and would come; but we have the assured Fulfilling of those Promises, because he is come; they were told that he should spill his Blood, but we do see he hath spilt his Blood: They ventured all upon his standing Surety for them, but we see he hath fulfilled, and that faithfully
too,

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too, the Office of his Suretyship, in that, according to the Engagement, he hath redeemed us poor Sinners. They ventured on the New Covenant, tho' not actually sealed, only *because they judged him faithful that had promised*, Heb. xi. 11. But we have the Covenant sealed, all Things are completely done, even as sure as the Heart-blood of a crucified Jesus can make it.

There is as great a Difference between their Dispensation and ours for Comfort, even as much as there is between the making of a Bond with a Promise to seal it, and the sealing of the same. It was made indeed in their Time, but it was not sealed until the Time the Blood was shed on the Mount *Calvary*; and that we might have our Faith mount up with Wings like an Eagle, he sheweth us what Encouragement, and ground of Faith we have to conclude we shall be everlastingly delivered; saying, Heb. ix. 16, 17, 18. *For where a Testament (or Covenant) is, there must of Necessity be the Death of the Testator; for a Testament is of Force after Men are dead, otherwise it is of no Strength at all while the Testator liveth; whereupon neither the first Testament was dedicated without Blood.* As Christ's Blood was the Confirmation of the New Covenant, yet it was not sealed in Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob's Days, to confirm the Covenant that God did tell them of, and yet they believed; therefore we ought to give the more earnest Heed to (believe) the Things that we have heard, and not in any wise to let them be questioned; and the rather, because you see the Testament is not only now made but confirmed; not only spoken of and promised, but verily sealed by the Death and Blood of Jesus, which is the Testator thereof.

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My Brethren, I would not have you ignorant of this one Thing, that the *Jews* had the Promise of a Sacrifice, of an everlasting High-Priest that should deliver them, yet they had but the Promise ; for Christ was not sacrificed, and was not then come an High Priest of good Things to come ; only the Type, the Shadow, the Figure, the Ceremonies they had, together with Christ's engaging as Surety to bring all Things to pass that were promised should come, and upon that Account received and saved.

It was with them and their Dispensation as this Similitude gives you to understand. " Set
" the Case that there be two Men who make
" a Covenant, that the one should give the
" other Ten Thousand Sheep, on Condition the
" other give him Two Thousand Pound : But
" for as much as the Money is not to be paid
" down presently ; therefore if he that buyeth
" the Sheep will have any of them before the
" Day of Payment, the Creditor requesteth
" a Surety, and upon the Engagement of the
" Surety, there is part of the Sheep given to
" the Debtor, even before the Day of Pay-
" ment, but the other at and after." So it is
here, Christ covenanted with his Father for
his Sheep, (*I lay down my Life for my Sheep*,
saith he) but the Money was not to be paid
down so soon as the Bargain was made, (as I
have already said) yet some of the Sheep
were saved, even before the Money was paid,
and that because of the Suretyship of Christ :
as it is written, *Being justified* (or saved) *freely*
by his Grace, through the Redemption (or Pur-
chase) *of Jesus Christ, whom God hath set forth*

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to be a Propitiation through Faith in his Blood to declare himself Righteous, in his forgiving the Sins that are past, (or the Sinners who died in the Faith, before Christ was crucified) through God's Forbearing till the Payment was paid; to declare, I say, at this Time his Righteousness, that he might be just, and the Justifier of him that believeth in Jesus, Rom, iii. 24, 25, 26.

The End of my speaking of this, is, to shew you that it is not Wisdom now to doubt whether God will save you or no, but to believe, because all Things are finished, as to our Justification: The Covenant not only made, but also sealed; the Debt paid, the Prison Doors flung off of the Hooks, with a Proclamation from Heaven of Deliverance to the Prisoners of Hope; saying, *Return to the strong Hold, ye Prisoners of Hope, even to Day do I declare* (saith God) *that I will render unto thee double*, Zech. ix. 12. And, saith Christ, when he was come, *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel; (that is, good Tidings to the Poor, that their Sins should be pardoned, that their Souls shall be saved.) He hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to preach Deliverance to the Captives, and recovering of the Sight of the Blind, and to set at Liberty them that are bruised, and to comfort them that mourn, to preach the acceptable Year of the Lord*, Luke iv. 18, 19.

Therefore, here Soul, thou mayest come to Jesus Christ, for any Thing thou wantest, as to a common Treasure-house, being the principal Man for the distributing of the Thing made mention of in the New Covenant, he having them all in his own Custody by Right of Purchase: For he hath bought them all, paid for them all.

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Dost thou want Faith? Then come for it to the
 Man Christ Jesus, *Heb. xii. 12.* Dost thou want
 the Spirit? Then ask it of Jesus. Dost thou want
 Wisdom? Dost thou want Grace of any sort?
 Dost thou want a new Heart? Dost thou want
 Strength against thy Lusts, against the Devil's
 Temptations? Dost thou want Strength to carry
 thee thro' Afflictions of Body, and Afflictions of
 Spirit, thro' Persecutions? Wouldest thou willingly
 hold out, stand to the last, and be more than a
 Conqueror? Then be sure thou meditate enough
 on the Merits of the Blood of Jesus, how he hath
 undertaken for thee, that he hath done the Work
 of thy Salvation in thy Room, that he is filled of
 God on purpose to fill thee, and is willing to com-
 municate whatsoever is in him, to thee. Consi-
 der this, I say, and triumph in it.

Again, This may inform us of the safe State
 of the Saints as touching their Perseverance that
 they shall stand though Hell rages, though the
 Devil roareth, and all the World endeavoureth
 the Ruin of the Saints of God; though some,
 through Ignorance of the Virtue of the Offer-
 ing of the Body of Jesus Christ, do say, a Man
 may be a Child of God to-day, and a Child of
 the Devil to-morrow, which is gross Ignorance;
 for, what, is the Blood of Christ, the Death, the
 Resurrection of Christ, of no more Virtue than to
 bring in for us an uncertain Salvation? or must the
 effectualness of Christ's Merits, as touching our
 Perseverance, be helped on by the Doings of Man?
 surely they that are predestinated, are also justi-
 fied; and they that are justified, they shall be glo-
 rified, *Rom. viii. 30.* Saints, do not doubt of the
 Salvation of your Souls, unless you do intend

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to undervalue Christ's Blood ; and do not think but that he that hath begun the good Work of his Grace in you, will perfect it, to the second Coming of our Lord Jesus, *Phil. i. 6.* Should not we, as well as *Paul* say, I am persuaded that nothing should separate us from the Love of God which is in Christ Jesus, *Rom. viii.* O! let the Saints know, that unless the Devil can pluck Christ out of Heaven, he cannot pull a true Believer out of Christ, When I say a true Believer, I do mean such a one as hath the Faith of the Operation of God in his Soul.

Lastly, Is there such Mercy as this? such Privileges as these? is there so much Ground of Comfort? and so much Cause to be glad? is there so much store in Christ? and such a ready Heart in him to give it to me? hath his bleeding Wounds so much in them, as that the Fruits thereof should be the Salvation of my Soul, of my sinful Soul, as to save me, sinful me, rebellious me, desperate me ; what then? shall not I now be holy? shall not I now study, strive, and lay out myself for him that hath laid out himself Soul and Body for me! shall I now ever love a Lust or Sin? shall I now be ashamed of the Cause, Ways, People, or Saints of Jesus Christ? shall I not now yield my Members as Instruments of Righteousness, seeing my End is Everlasting Life? *Rom. vi.* Shall Christ think nothing too dear for me, and shall I count any thing too dear for him? shall I grieve him with my foolish Carriage? shall I slight his Counsel by following of my own Will? Thus therefore the Doctrine of the New Covenant doth call for Holiness, engage to Holiness, and maketh the Children

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of that Covenant to take Pleasure therein. Let no Man therefore conclude on this, that the Doctrine of the Gospel is a licentious Doctrine; but if they do, it is because they are Fools, and such as have not tasted of the Virtue of the Blood of Jesus Christ; neither did they ever feel the Nature and Sway that the Love of Christ hath in Hearts of his. And thus also you may see that the Doctrine of the Gospel is of great Advantage to the People of God, that are already come in, or to them that shall at the Consideration hereof be willing to come in to partake of the glorious Benefits of this glorious Covenant. But saith the poor Soul,

Object. Alas, I doubt this is too good for me.

Inquire. Why so, I pray you?

Object. Alas, Because I am a Sinner.

Reply. Why, all this is bestowed upon none but Sinners, as it is written, *While we were ungodly, Christ died for us*, Rom. v. 6, 8. *He came into the World to save Sinners*, 1 Tim. i. 14, 15.

Object. O, but I am one of the chief Sinners.

Reply. Why, this is for the chief of Sinners, (1 Tim. i. 14, 15.) *Christ Jesus came into the World to save Sinners, of whom I am Chief*, (saith Paul.)

Object. O, but my Sins are so big, that I cannot conceive how I should have Mercy.

You that are resolved to go on in your Sins, meddle not with this.

Reply. Why Soul? Didst thou ever kill any Body? Didst thou ever burn any of thy Children in the Fire to Idols? Hast thou been a Witch? Didst thou ever
use

use Enchantments and Conjurat[i]on ? Didst thou ever curse and swear, and deny Christ ? And yet if thou hast, there is yet Hopes of Pardon ; yea, such Sinners as these have been pardoned, as appears by these and the like Scriptures, 2 *Chron.* xxxiii. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9th Verses compared with the 12th and 13th. Again, *Acts* xix. 19, 20. *Acts* viii. 22. compared with Verse 9. *Matt.* xxvi. 74, 75.

Object. But tho' I have not sinned such Kind of Sins, yet it may be I have sinned as bad.

Ans. That cannot likely be ; yet tho' thou hast, still there is Ground of Mercy for thee, for as much as thou art under the Promise, *John* vi. 37.

Object. Alas, Man, I am afraid that I have sinned the unpardonable Sin, and therefore there is no Hope for me.

Ans. Dost thou know what the unpardonable Sin (the Sin against the Holy Ghost) is ? And when it is committed ?

Reply. It is a Sin against Light.

Ans. That is true ; yet every Sin against Light, is not the Sin against the Holy Ghost.

Reply. Say you so ?

Ans. Yea, and I prove it thus : If every Sin against Light, had been the Sin that is unpardonable, then had *David* and *Peter*, and others sinned that Sin : But though they did sin against Light, yet they did not sin that Sin ; therefore every Sin against Light is not the Sin against the Holy Ghost, the unpardonable Sin.

Object. But the Scripture saith, *If we sin wilfully after we have received the Knowledge of the Truth, there remaineth no more Sacrifice for*

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for Sin ; but a certain fearful looking for of Judgment, and fiery Indignation, which shall devour the Adversaries.

Answ. Do you know what that wilful Sin is ?

Reply. Why, What is it ? Is it not for a Man to sin willingly after enlightning ?

1. *Answer.* Yes ; yet doubtless every willing Sin is not that ; for then *David* had sinned it, when he lay with *Bathsheba* ; and *Jonah*, when he fled from the Presence of the Lord ; and *Solomon* also, when he had so many Concubines.

2 *Answer.* But that Sin is a Sin that is of another Nature, which is this: For a Man after he hath made some Profession of Salvation, to come alone by the Blood of *Jesus*, together with some Light and Power of the same upon his Spirit: I say, for him, after this, knowingly, wilfully, and despitefully, to trample upon the Blood of *Christ* shed on the Cross, and to count it an unholy Thing, or no better than the Blood of another Man ; and rather to venture his Soul any other Way, than to be saved by this precious Blood. And this must be done I say, after some Light, (*Heb.* vi. 4, 5.) *Despitefully*, (*Heb.* x. 29.) *Knowingly*, (*2 Pet.* ii. 21.) and *wilfully*, (*Heb.* x. 26, compared with Verse 29.) and that not in a Hurry and sudden Fit, as *Peter's* was ; but with some Time before-hand to pause upon it first, with *Judas* ; and also with a continued Resolution never to turn or be converted again. For it is impossible to renew such again to Repentance, they are so resolved, and so desperate, *Heb.* vi.

Quest. And how sayest thou now? Didst thou ever after thou hadst received some blessed Light from Christ, wilfully, despitefully, and knowingly, stamp or trample the Blood of the Man Christ Jesus under thy Feet? And art thou for ever resolved so to do?

Answer. O no, I would not do that wilfully, despitefully, and knowingly, not for all the World.

Inqui. But yet I must tell you now you put me in mind of it, surely sometimes I have most horrible blasphemous Thoughts in me against God, Christ, and the Spirit: May not these be that Sin too?

Answ. Dost thou delight in them? Are they such Things as thou takest Pleasure in?

Reply. O no, neither would I do it for a thousand Worlds. O, methinks they make me sometimes tremble to think of them: But how and if I should delight in them before I am aware?

Answ. Beg of God for Strength against them, and if at any Time thou findest thy wicked Heart to give way in the least thereto (for that is likely enough) and though thou find it may on a sudden give way to that Hell-bred Wickedness that is in it: Yet do not despair, for as much as Christ hath said, *All Manner of Sins and Blasphemies shall be forgiven to the Sons of Men. And whosoever shall speak a Word against the Son of Man, (that is, Christ) as he may do with Peter, through Temptation, yet upon Repentance, it shall be forgiven him, Mat. xii. 32.*

Object. But I thought it might have been committed all on a sudden, either by some blasphemous

blasphemous Thought, or else by committing some other horrible Sin.

Answ. For certain this Sin, and the Commission of it, doth lie in a knowing, wilful, malicious, or spiteful, together with a final trampling the Blood of sweet Jesus under Foot, *Heb. x.*

Object. But it seems to be rather a resisting of the Spirit, and Motions thereof, than this which you say; for first, its proper Title is the Sin against the Holy Ghost. And again, *They have done despite unto the Spirit of Grace.* So that it rather seems to be, I say, that a resisting of the Spirit, and the movings thereof, is that Sin.

I Answ. For certain the Sin is committed by them that do as before I have said, that is, by a final, knowing, wilful, malicious trampling under Foot the Blood of Christ, which was shed on Mount *Calvary*, when Jesus was there crucified, And though it be called the Sin against the Spirit, yet (as I said before) every Sin against the Spirit is not that; for if it was, then every Sin against the Light and Convictions of the Spirit would be unpardonable; but that is an evident Untruth, for these Reasons. First, because there be those who have sinned against the Movings of the Spirit, and that knowingly too, and yet did not commit that. As *Jonah*, who when God had expressly by his Spirit bid him go to *Nineveh*, he runs thereupon quite another Way. Secondly, Because the very People that have sinned against the Movings of the Spirit, are yet, if they do return, received to Mercy. Witness also *Jonah*, who though he

had sinned against the Movings of the Spirit of the Lord, in doing contrary thereunto, *Yet when he called (as he saith) to the Lord (out of the Belly of Hell) the Lord heard him, and gave him Deliverance, and set him again about his Work.* (Read the whole Story of that Prophet.)

2. *Answ.* But Secondly, I shall shew you that it must needs be wilfully, knowingly, and a malicious rejecting of the Man Christ Jesus, as the Saviour: That is, counting his Blood, his Righteousness, his Intercession, in his own Person (for he that rejects one, rejects all) to be of no Value, as to Salvation. I say, this I shall shew you is the unpardonable Sin. And then afterwards in brief, shew you why it is called the Sin against the Holy Ghost.

First, That Man that doth reject, as aforesaid, the Blood, Death, Righteousness, Resurrection, and Intercession of the Man Christ, doth reject that Sacrifice, that Blood, that Righteousness, that Victory, that Rest, that God alone hath appointed for Salvation, (John i. 29.) *Behold the Lamb (or Sacrifice) of God, We have Redemption through his Blood,* (Ephes. i. 7.) *That I may be found in him,* (to wit) in Christ's Righteousness, with Christ's own personal Obedience to his Father's Will, *Phil. iii. 7, 8, 9, 10.* By his Resurrection comes Justification, *Rom. iv. 25.* His Intercession now in his own Person in the Heavens, now absent from his Saints, is the Cause of the Saints Perseverance, *2 Cor. vi. 7, 8.* also *Rom. viii. 33, 34, 35, 36, &c.*

Secondly, They that reject this Sacrifice, and the Merits of this Christ, which he by himself

himself hath brought in for Sinners, hath rejected him through whom alone all the Promises of the New Testament, together with all the Mercy discovered thereby, doth come unto poor Creatures : *For all the Promises in him are Yea, and in him Amen, unto the Glory of God, 2 Cor. i. 20.*

And all spiritual Blessings are made over to us through him, *Ephes. i. 3, 4.* That is, through and in this Man (which is Christ) we have all our spiritual, heavenly, and eternal Mercies.

Thirdly, He that doth knowingly, wilfully, and despitefully reject this Man for Salvation, doth sin the unpardonable Sin ; because there is never another Sacrifice to be offered, *Heb. x. 26.* *There is no more Offering for Sin ; there remaineth no more Sacrifice for Sin, Heb. x. 18.* (namely, than the Offering of the Body of Jesus Christ, a Sacrifice *once for all*, *Heb. x. Verse 10. and 14.* compared with *Verse 18. and 26.*) No, but they that shall after Light, and clear Conviction, reject the first Offering of his Body for Salvation, do crucify him the second Time, which irrecoverably merits their own Damnation : *For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the Heavenly Gift, and were made Partakers of the Holy Ghost ; and have tasted the good Word of God, and the Powers of the World to come : If they shall fall away to renew them again unto Repentance, seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open Shame. If they shall away to renew them again unto Repentance : And why so ? seeing saith the Apostle, they do crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and do*

do put him to open Shame. O then! How miserably hath the Devil deceived some, in that he hath got them to reject the Merits of the first Offering of the Body of Christ; (which was for Salvation) and hath got them to trust in a flesh crucifying of Christ, which unavoidably brings their speedy Damnation.

Fourthly, They that do reject this Man, as aforesaid, do sin the unpardonable Sin; because in rejecting him, they do make way for the Justice of God to break out upon them; which will be in the first Place, Sinners against the first Covenant, which is the Soul-damning Covenant; and also despising of (even the Life, and Glory, and Consolations, Pardon, Grace, and Love, that is discovered in) the second Covenant, forasmuch as they reject the Mediator, the Priest of the same, which is the Man Jesus. And the Man that doth so, I would fain see how his Sins should be pardoned, and his Soul saved, seeing the Means (which is the Son of Man, the Son of Mary, and his Merits) is rejected. For saith he, *If you believe not that I am he, you shall, mark, you shall, do what you can, you shall, appear where you can, you shall, follow Moses's Law, or any Holiness whatsoever, you shall die in your Sins,* John viii. 24. So that, I say, the Sin that is called the unpardonable Sin, is a knowing, wilful, and spiteful rejecting of the sacrificing of the Son of Man the first Time for Sin. And now to shew you why it is called the Sin against the Holy Ghost, as in these Scriptures, *Matth. xii. Heb. x. Mark iii.*

First,

First, Because they sin against the manifest Light of the Spirit, (as I said before) it is a Sin against the Light of the Spirit: That is, they have been formerly enlightned into the Nature of the Gospel, and the Merits of the Man Christ, and his Blood, Righteousness, Intercession, &c. And also professed and confessed the same, with some Life and Comfort in, and through the Profession of him: Yet now against all that Light, maliciously, and with Despite to all their former Profession, turn their Backs, and trample upon the same.

26 Secondly, It is called the Sin against the Holy Ghost, because such a Person doth (as I may say) lay violent Hands on it; one that sets himself in Opposition to, and is resolved to resist all the Motions that do come in from the Spirit to persuade the contrary. For I do verily believe, that Men, in this very rejecting of the Son of God, after some Knowledge of him, especially at their first resisting and refusing of him, they have certain Motions of the Spirit of God to dissuade them from so great a Soul-damning Act. But they, being filled with an over-powering Measure of the Spirit of the Devil, do despite unto these Convictions and Motions, by studying and contriving how they may answer them, and get under a more convincing Nature of them; and therefore it is called a long Despite unto the Spirit of Grace, *Heb. x. 29.* And so,

Thirdly, In that they do reject the Beseechings of the Spirit, and all its gentle Intreatings of the Soul, to tarry still in the same Doctrine.

Fourthly,

Fourthly, In that they do reject the very Testimony of the Prophets and Apostles, with Christ himself: I say, their Testimony through the Spirit, of the Power, Virtue, Sufficiency, and Prevalency of the Blood, Sacrifice, Death, Resurrection, Ascension, and Intercession of the Man Christ Jesus, of which the Scriptures are full, both in the Old and New Testament, as the Apostle saith, *For all the Prophets from Samuel, with them that follow after, have shewed of these Days.* That is, in which Christ should be a Sacrifice for Sin, *Acts* iii. 24. compared with Verse 6, 13, 14, 15, 18, 26. Again, saith he, *He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not Man, but God; who hath also given us his Holy Spirit,* 1 Thes. iv. 8. That is, he rejecteth or despiseth the very Testimony of the Spirit.

Fifthly, It is called the Sin against the Holy Ghost, because he that doth reject and disown the Doctrine of Salvation by the Man Christ Jesus, through believing in him, doth despise, resist, and reject the Wisdom of the Spirit; for the Wisdom of God's Spirit did never more appear, than in its finding out a Way for Sinners to be reconciled to God, by the Death of this Man; and therefore Christ, as he is a Sacrifice, is called *the Wisdom of God.* And again, when it doth reveal the Lord Jesus, it is called *the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation in the Knowledge of him,* Ephes. i. 17.

Object. But (some may say) The slighting or rejecting of the Son of Man, (Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Mary) cannot be the Sin that is unpardonable, as is clear from that Scripture

Scripture in the Twelfth of *Matthew*, where he himself saith, *He that shall speak a Word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him: But he that shall sin against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this World, nor in the World to come*, Ver. 32. Now by this it is clear, that the Sin that is unpardonable is one Thing, and the Sin against the Son of Man another; that Sin that is against the Son of Man is pardonable: But if that was the Sin against the Holy Ghost, it would not be pardonable; therefore the Sin against the Son of Man is not the Sin against the Holy Ghost, the unpardonable Sin.

Answ. First, I do know full well that there are several Persons that have been pardoned, yet have sinned against the Son of Man; and that they have for a Time rejected him, as *Paul*, 1 *Tim.* i. 13, 14. Also the Jews, *Acts* ii. 36, 37. But there was an ignorant rejecting of him, without the Enlightning, and Taste, and Feeling of the Power of the Things of God, made mention of in the sixth of the *Hebrews*, the 3, 4, 5, 6. Verses.

Secondly, There is, and hath been a higher Manner of sinning against the Son of Man, which also hath been, and is still pardonable; as in the Case of *Peter*, who in a violent Temptation, in a mighty Hurry, upon a sudden denied him, and that after the Revelation of the Spirit of God from Heaven to him, that he (*Jesus*) was the Son of God, *Matth.* xvi. 16, 17, 18. This also is pardonable, if there be a coming up again to Repentance: O rich Grace! O wonderful Grace! that God should be so full of Love to his poor Creatures, that though

they

they do sin against the Son of God, either thro' Ignorance, or some sudden violent Charge breaking loose from Hell upon them) but yet take it for certain, that if a Man do slight and reject the Son of God, and the Spirit, in that Manner as I have before hinted, that is, for a Man after some great Measure of the enlightning by the Spirit of God, and some Profession of Jesus Christ to be the Saviour, and his Blood that was shed on the Mount without the Gates of Jerusalem, to be the Atonement; I say, he that shall after this, knowingly, wilfully, and out of Malice and Despite, reject, speak against, and trample that Doctrine under Foot, resolving for ever so to do; And if he there continue, I will pawn my Soul upon it, he hath sinned the unpardonable Sin, and shall never be forgiven, neither in this World, nor in the World to come; or else those Scriptures that testify the Truth of this must be scrabled out, and must be looked upon for meer Fables; which are these following. *For if after they have escaped the Pollutions of the World, through the Knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, (which is the Son of Man, Matth. xvi. 13.) and are again entangled therein and overcome; (which must be by denying this Lord that bought them, 2 Pet. ii. 1.) the latter End is worse with them than the Beginning, 2 Pet. ii. 20. For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the Heavenly Gift. ——— And have tasted the good Word of God, and the Powers of the World to come: If they shall fall away (not only fall, but fall away; that is, finally, Heb. x. 19.) it is impossible to renew them*

them again unto Repentance ; and the Reason is rendred, *seeing they have crucified to themselves the Son of God (which is the Son of Man) afresh, and put him to an open Shame, Heb. vi. 4, 5, 6.* Now if you would further know what it is to crucify the Son of God afresh : It is this. For to undervalue and trample under Foot the Merits and Virtue of his Blood for Remission of Sins, as is clearly manifested in the Tenth of the *Hebrews*, 26, 27, 28th Verses, where it is said, *For if we sin wilfully after we have received the Knowledge of the Truth, there remaineth no more Sacrifice for Sins ; but a certain fearful looking for of Judgment, and the fiery Indignation, which shall devour the Adversaries. He that despised Moses's Law died without Mercy ; of how much sorer Punishment suppose ye, ye shall be thought worthy, that have trodden under Foot the Son of God, (there is the second crucifying of Christ which the Quakers think to be saved by) and hath counted the Blood of the Covenant wherewith he was sanctified an unholy thing ? And then followeth, And hath done despite unto the Spirit of Grace, Verse the Twenty Ninth. All that Paul hath to keep him from this Sin, it was his Ignorance in persecuting the Man, and Merits of Jesus Christ, *Acts ix.* But I obtained Mercy (saith he) because I did it ignorantly, *1 Tim. i. 14.* And Peter, though he did deny him knowingly, yet he did it unwillingly, and in a sudden and fearful Temptation, and so by the Intercession of Jesus escaped that Danger. So, I say, they that commit this Sin, they do it after Light, knowingly, wilfully, and despitefully, and in the open View of the*

the

the whole World, reject the Son of Man for being their Lord and Saviour, and in that it is called the Sin against the Holy Ghost. It is a Name most fit for this Sin to be called the Sin against the Holy Ghost, for these Reasons but now laid down ; for this Sin is immediately committed against the Motions and Convictions, and Light of that Holy Spirit of God, that makes it its Business to hand forth, and manifest the Truth and Reality of the Merits and Virtues of the Lord Jesus, the Son of Man. And therefore beware Ranters and Quakers, for I am sure you are the nearest that Sin by Profession (which is indeed the right committing of it) of any Persons that I do know at this Day under the whole Heavens ; for as much as you will not venture the Salvation of your Souls on the Blood shed on Mount *Calvary*, *Luke xxiii. 33.* out of the Side of that Man that was offered up in Sacrifice for all that did believe, in that his offering up of his Body at that Time, (either before he offered it, or that have, do, or shall believe on it for the Time since, together with that Time that he offered it) though formerly you did profess that Salvation was wrought out that Way, by that Sacrifice then offered, and also seemed to have some Comfort thereby ; yea, insomuch that some of you declared the same in the Hearing of many, professing your selves to be Believers of the same. O therefore ! It is sad for you that were once thus enlightened, and have tasted these good Things ; and yet notwithstanding all your Profession, you are now turned from the Simplicity that is in Christ, to another Doctrine which will be to your Destruction, if
you

you continue in it ; for without Blood there is no Remission, *Heb. ix. 22.*

Many other Reasons might be given, but that I would not be too tedious : Yet I would put in this Caution, That if there be any Souls that be but now willing to venture their Salvation upon the Merits of a naked Jesus, I do verily for the present believe, they have not sinned that Sin ; because there is still a Promise holds forth itself to such a Soul, where Christ saith, *He that comes to me, I will in no wise* (for nothing that he hath done) *cast him out,* *John vi. 36.* That Promise is worthy to be written in Letters of Gold.

Object. But alas, Though I should never sin that sin, yet I have other Sins enough to Damn me.

Answ. What though thou hadst the Sins of a thousand Sinners ; yet if thou come to Christ he will save thee, *John vi. 36.* see also *Heb. vii. 25.*

Object. Alas ! But how should I come ? I doubt I do not come as I should do ; my Heart is nought and dead ; and alas, then how should I come ?

Answ. Why bethink thy self of all the Sins that ever thou didst commit, and lay the Weight of them all upon thy Heart, till thou art loaden down with the same, and come to him in such a Case as this, and he will give thee Rest for thy Soul, *Matth. xi.* the three last Verses.

And again, If thou wouldest know how thou shouldest come, come as much undervaluing thyself as ever thou canst, saying, Lord, Here is a Sinner, the basest in all the Country ; if I had my Deserts, I had been damned in Hell

would have their Part in the new Covenant. 251

Hell Fire long ago: Lord, I am not worthy to have the least Concern in the Kingdom of Heaven; and yet, O that thou wouldest have Mercy! Come like *Benhadad's* Servants to the King of *Israel*, *1 Kings* xx. 31, 32, with a Rope about thy Neck, and fling thyself down at *Christ's* Feet, and lie there a while, striving with him by thy Prayers, and I'll warrant thee Speed, *Mat.* xi. 28, 29, 30. *John* vi. 37.

Object. O, but I am not sanctified.

Answ. He will sanctify thee, and be made thy Sanctification also, *1 Cor.* vi. 10, 11. *1 Cor.* i. 30.

Object. O, but I cannot pray.

Answ. To pray, is not for thee to down on thy Knees, and say over a many Scripture Words only; for that thou may'st do, and yet do nothing but babble: But if thou from a Sense of thy Baseness, canst groan out thy Heart's Desire before the Lord, he will hear thee, and grant thy Desire; for he can tell what is the Meaning of the Groanings of the Spirit, *Rom.* viii. 26, 27.

Object. O, but I am afraid to pray, for fear my Prayers should be counted as Sin in the Sight of the great God.

Answ. That is a good Sign that Prayers are more than bare Words, and have some Prevalence at the Throne of Grace thro' *Christ Jesus*, or else the Devil would never seek to labour to beat thee off from Prayer, by undervaluing thy Prayers, telling thee they are Sin; for the best Prayers he will call the worst, and the worst he will call the best, or else how should he be a Liar?

Object. But, I am afraid the Day of Grace is past, and if it should be so, what should I do then?

Answ. Truly, with some Men indeed it doth fare thus, that the Day of Grace is at an End

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before

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before their Lives are at an End. Or thus, the Day of Grace is past before the Day of Death is come, as Christ saith, *If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy Day, the things that belong unto thy Peace, (that is the Word of Grace or Reconciliation) but now it is hid from thine Eyes,* Luke xix. 41, 42. But for the better satisfying of thee, as touching this Thing, consider these following Things :

First, Doth the Lord knock still at the Door of thy Heart by his Word and Spirit ? If so, then the Day of Grace is not past with thy Soul ; for where he doth so knock, there he doth also proffer, and promise to come in and Sup (that is, to communicate of his things unto them) which he would not do, was the Day of Grace past with the Soul, *Rev. iii. 20.*

Object. But how should I know whether Christ do so knock at my Heart, as to be desirous to come in ? That I may know also whether the Day of Grace be past with me or no ?

Ans. Consider these Things ;

First, Doth the Lord make thee sensible of thy miserable State, without an Interest in Jesus Christ ? And that naturally thou hast no Share in him, no Faith in him, no Communion with him, no delight in him, or love in the least to him ? If he hath, and is doing of this, he hath, and is knocking at thy Heart.

Secondly, Doth he, together with this, put into thy Heart an earnest desire after Communion with him, together with holy Resolutions not to be satisfied without real Communion with him ?

Thirdly, Doth he sometimes give thee some secret Persuasions (tho' not scarcely discernable) that thou mayest attain, and get an Interest in him ?

Fourthly,

Fourthly, Doth he now and then glance in some of the Promises into thy Heart, causing them to leave some heavenly Savour (tho' but for a very short time) on thy Spirit?

Fifthly, Dost thou at some time see some little Excellency in Christ? and doth all this stir up in thy Heart some Breathings after him? If so, then fear not, the Day of Grace is not past with thy poor Soul; for if the Day of Grace should be past with such a Soul as this, then that Scripture must be broken, where Christ saith, *He that cometh unto me, I will in no wise* (for nothing, by no Means, upon no Terms whatsoever) *cast out*, John vi. 37.

Object. But surely if the Day of Grace was not past with me, I should not be so long without an Answer of God's Love to my Soul; that therefore doth make me mistrust my State the more, is, that I wait and wait, and yet am not delivered.

Answer. Hast thou waited on the Lord so long as the Lord hath waited on thee? It may be the Lord hath waited on thee this twenty, or thirty, yea, forty Years, or more, and thou hast not waited on him seven Years: Cast this into thy Mind therefore when Satan tells thee, that God doth not love thee, because thou hast waited so long without an Assurance; (for it is his Temptation) for God did wait longer on thee, and was fain to send to thee by his Ambassadors, time after time: And therefore, say thou, *I will wait to see what the Lord will say unto me*; and the rather, because *he will speak Peace*, for he is the Lord thereof.

But, Secondly, Know, that it is not thy being under Trouble a long time, that will be an Argument sufficient to prove that thou art past hopes;

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Nay, contrariwise ; for Jesus Christ did take our
Nature upon him, and also did undertake Deli-
verance for those, and bring it in for them *who*
were all their life-time subject to Bondage, Heb. ii.
14, 16.

Object. But alas ! I am not able to wait, all my
Strength is gone, I have waited so long I can wait
no longer.

Answ. It may be thou hast concluded on this
long ago, thinking thou shouldest not be able to
hold out any longer ; no not a Year, a Month,
or a Week ; nay, it may be not so long. It may
be in the Morning thou hast thought thou shouldst
not hold out 'till Night, and at Night 'till Morn-
ing again : Yet the Lord hath supported thee, and
kept thee in waiting upon him many Weeks and
Years ; therefore that is the Temptation of the
Devil to make thee think so, that he might drive
thee to despair of God's Mercy, and so to leave off
following the Ways of God, and to close in with
thy Sins again. O therefore do not give way unto
it, but believe that thou shalt *see the Goodness of*
the Lord in the Land of the Living. Wait on the
Lord, be of good Courage, and he shall strengthen thy
Heart ; wait, I say, on the Lord, Pl. xxvii. 23, 24.
And that thou mayest so do, consider these things :

First, If thou, after thou hast waited thus
long, shouldest now give over, and wait no
longer, thou wouldest lose all thy Time and Pains
that thou hast taken in the Way of God hitherto,
and wilt be like to a Man, that because he sought
long for Gold, and did not find it, therefore
turned back from seeking after it, though he was
hard by it, and had almost found it ; and all be-
cause he was loth to look and seek a little further.

Secondly,

Secondly, Thou wilt not only lose thy Time, but also lose thy own Soul; for Salvation is no where else but in Jesus Christ, *Acts* iv. 12.

Thirdly, Thou wilt sin the highest Sin that ever thou didst sin before, in drawing (finally) back, insomuch that God may say, my Soul shall have no Pleasure in him, *Heb.* x. 38.

But, Secondly, Consider, thou sayest, All my Strength is gone, and therefore how should I wait? Why at that Time when thou feelest, and findest thy Strength quite gone, even that is the Time when the Lord will renew, and give thee fresh Strength. *The Youths shall faint and be weary, and young Men shall utterly fall; but they that wait upon the Lord, shall renew their Strength, they shall mount up with Wings as Eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not be faint, Isa.* xl. 30, 31.

Object. But though I do wait, yet if I be not elected to Eternal Life, what Good will all my waiting do me? *For it is not in him that willeth, nor in him that runneth, but of God that sheweth Mercy.* Therefore I say, if I should not be elected, all is in vain.

1 *Answ.* Why, in the first Place, to be sure thy Backsliding from God will not prove thy Election, neither thy growing weary of waiting upon God.

2 *Answ.* But, secondly, Thou art it may be troubled to know whether thou art elected: And sayest thou, if I did but know that, that would encourage me in my waiting on God.

Answ. I believe thee; but mark, thou shalt not know thy Election in the first Place, but in the Second. That is to say, thou must first get acquaintance with God in Christ, which doth come by thy giving credit to his Promises, and Records

which he hath given of Jesus Christ, his Blood and Righteousness, together with the rest of his Merits.

That is, before thou canst know whether thou art elected, thou must believe in Jesus Christ so really that thy Faith laying hold of, and drinking and eating the Flesh and Blood of Christ, even so, that there shall be Life begotten in thy Soul by the same. Life from the Condemnings of the Law; Life from the Guilt of Sin; Life over the Filth of the same; Life also to walk with God in his Son and Ways; the Life of Love to God the Father, and Jesus Christ his Son, Saints and Ways; and that because they are holy, harmless, and such that are altogether contrary to Iniquity.

For these things must be in thy Soul as a Fore-runner of thy being made acquainted with the other; God hath these two Ways to shew his Children their Election.

First, By Testimony of the Spirit. That is, the Soul being under Trouble of Conscience, and grieved for Sin, the Spirit doth seal up the Soul by its comfortable Testimony; persuading of the Soul that God, for Christ's Sake, hath forgiven all those Sins that lie so heavy on the Conscience, and that do so much perplex the Soul, by shewing it that the Law which doth utter such horrible Curses against it, is by Christ's Blood satisfied and fulfilled, *Eph. i. 13, 14.*

Secondly, By Consequence; that is, the Soul finding that God hath been good unto it, in that he hath shewed it its lost State and miserable Condition; and also that he hath given it some comfortable Hope that he will save it from the same: I say, the Soul, from a right Sense thereof, doth, or may, draw this Conclusion, that if God had

double

not

not been minded to have saved it, he would not have done it for such Things as these : But for the more surer dealing with thy Soul, it is not good to take any of these apart ; that is, it is not good to take the Testimony of the Spirit (as thou supposest thou hast) from the Fruits thereof, so as to conclude the Testimony thou hast received, to be a sufficient Ground without the other ; (not that it is not, if it be the Testimony of the Spirit) but because the Devil doth also deceive Souls by the Workings of his Spirit in them, pretending that it is the Spirit of God : And again, thou shouldst not satisfy thyself, tho' thou do find some Seekings in thee after that which is good, without the Testimony of the other ; that is to say, of the Spirit ; for it is the Testimony of two that is to be taken for truth ; therefore I say, as thou shouldst be much in praying for the Spirit to testify Assurance to thee, so also thou shouldst look to the End of it when thou thinkest thou hast it ; which is this, to shew thee that it is alone for Christ's Sake that thy Sins are forgiven thee ; and also thereby a constraining of thee to advance him, both by Words and Works, in Holiness and Righteousness all the Days of thy Life : From hence thou mayest boldly conclude thy Election, 1 *Thes.* iii. 4, 5, 6. *Remembring without ceasing your Works of Faith, Labour of Love and Patience, of Hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the Sight of God our Father : Knowing, Brethren, saith the Apostle, beloved, your Election of God. But how ? why by this, For our Gospel came not to you in Word only, but also in Power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much Assurance.—And ye became Followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the Word in much Affliction, with Joy of the Holy Ghost : So that you were*

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ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and
Achaia. And to wait for his Son from Heaven,
whom he raised from the Dead, even Jesus which
(hath) delivered us from the Wrath to come, V. 10.*

Object. But alas, for my Part, instead of finding in me any thing that is good, I find in me all manner of Wickedness, Hard-heartedness, Hypocrisy, Coldness of Affection to Christ, very great Unbelief, together with every thing that is base, and of an ill Savour. What Hope therefore can I have?

Ans. If thou wast not such a one, thou hadst no need of Mercy. If thou wast whole, thou hadst no need of the Physician; dost thou therefore see thyself in such a sad Condition as this? Thou hast the more need to come to Christ, that thou mayest be not only cleansed from these Evils, but also that thou mayest be delivered from that Wrath they will bring upon thee (if thou do not get rid of them) to all Eternity.

Quest. But how should I do? and what Course should I take to be delivered from this sad and troublesome Condition?

Ans. Dost thou see in thee all manner of Wickedness? The best Way that I can direct a Soul in such a Case, is, to pitch a steadfast Eye on him that is full, and to look so steadfastly upon him by Faith, that thereby thou mayest even draw down of his Fulness into thy Heart; for that is the right way, and the Way that was typed out (before Christ came in the Flesh) in the Time of Moses, when the Lord said unto him, *Make thee a Serpent of Brass* (which was a Type of Christ) *and set it upon a Pole; and it shall come to pass that when a Serpent hath bitten any Man, that he may look thereon and live,* Numb. xxi. 8. Even

Even so now in Gospel times, when any Soul bitten with fiery Serpents (their Sins) that then the next way to be healed, is, for the Soul to look upon the Son of Man, who, as the Serpent was, was hanged on a Pole, (or Tree) that whosoever shall indeed look on him by Faith, may be healed of all their Distempers whatsoever, *John iii. 14, 15.*

As now to instance in some Things. First, is thy Heart hard? Why then, behold how full of Bowels and Compassion is the Heart of Christ towards thee, which may be seen in his coming down from Heaven to spill his Heart-Blood for thee.

2. Is thy Heart slothful and idle? then see how active the Lord Jesus is for thee, in that he did not only die for thee, but also in that he hath been ever since his Ascension into Heaven, making Intercession for thee, *Heb. vii. 25.*

3. Dost thou see and find in thee Iniquity and Unrighteousness? Then look up to Heaven, and see there a Righteous Person, even thy Righteous Jesus Christ, now presenting thee in his own Perfections before the Throne of his Father's Glory, *1 Cor. i. 30.*

4. Dost thou see that thou art very much void of right Sanctification? Then look up and thou shalt see that thy Sanctification is in the Presence of God, a compleat Sanctification, representing all the Saints as (Righteous, so) sanctified ones in the Presence of the great God of Heaven. And so whatsoever thou wantest, be sure to strive to pitch thy Faith upon the Son of God, and behold him stedfastly, and thou shalt by so doing find a mighty change in thy Soul. *For when we behold him, as in a Glass, even the Glory of the*

260 *Objections answered for their Comforts, who*
Lord, we are changed (namely by beholding) *from*
Glory to Glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord,
2 Cor. vii. 18. This is the true Way to get both
Comfort to thy Soul, and also Sanctification and
right Holiness into thy Soul.

Poor Souls that are under the Distemper of a
guilty Conscience, and under the Workings of
much Corruption, do not go the nearest Way to
Heaven, if they do not in the first Place look up-
on themselves as cursed Sinners by the Law: And
yet at that time they are blessed, for ever blessed
Saints, by the Merits of Jesus Christ. *O wretched*
Man that I am, saith Paul, and yet, *O blessed*
Man that I am thro' my Lord Jesus Christ; for
that is the Scope of the Scripture, *Rom. vii. 24. 25.*
Object. But alas, I am blind and cannot see,
what shall I do now?

Ans. Why truly thou must go to him that can
make the Eyes that are blind to see (even to our
Lord Jesus) by Prayer, saying as the poor blind
Man did, *Lord that I might receive my Sight,* and so
continue begging with him, till thou do receive
Sight, even a Sight of Jesus Christ, his Death,
Blood, Resurrection, Ascension, Intercession, and
that for thee, even for thee.

And the rather, because first, he hath invited
thee to come, and buy such Eye-salve of him that
may make thee see, *Rev. iii. 18.* Secondly, Be-
cause thou shalt never have any true Comfort till
thou dost thus come to see, and behold the Lamb
of God that hath taken away thy Sins, *John i. 29.*
Thirdly, Because that thereby thou wilt be able
(through Grace) to step over, and turn aside from
the several Stumbling-Blocks that Satan, toge-
ther with his Instruments hath laid in our Way,
which otherwise thou wilt not be able to shun, but
wilt

would have their Part in the new Covenant. 261

wilt certainly fall when others stand, and grope and stumble, when others go upright, to the great Prejudice of thy poor Soul.

Object. But alas I have nothing to carry with me, how then should I go?

Ans. Hast thou no Sins? If thou hast, carry them, and exchange them for his Righteousness; because he hath said, *Cast thy Burthen upon the Lord, and he will sustain thee*, Psal. lv. 22. and again, because he hath said, though thou be heavy laden, yet if thou do but come to him, he will give thee Rest, *Mat. xi. 28.*

Object. But (you will say) Satan telleth me that I am so cold in Prayers, so weak in believing, so great a Sinner, that I do go so slothfully on in the Way of God, that I am so apt to slip at every Temptation, and to be entangled therewith, together with other things, so that I shall never be able to attain those blessed things that are held forth to Sinners by Jesus Christ; and therefore my Trouble is much upon this account also, and many times I fear that will come upon me which Satan suggesteth to me; that is, I shall miss of Eternal Life.

I Ans. As to the latter part of the Objection, that thou shalt never attain to everlasting Life, that is obtained for thee already, without thy doing, either thy praying, striving, or wrestling against Sin. If we speak properly, it is Christ that hath in his own Body abolished Death on the Cross, and brought Light, Life and Glory to us through his thus doing. But this is the thing that thou aimest at, that thou shalt never have a Share in this Life already obtained for so many as do come by Faith to Jesus Christ; and all because thou art so slothful, so cold, so weak, so great a Sinner, so subject to slip and commit Infirmities.

Ans.

2. *Ans.* I answer, Did'st thou never learn for to outshoot the Devil with his own Bow, and to cut off his Head with his own Sword, as *David* served *Goliath*, who was a Type of him ?

Quest. O how should a poor Soul do this ? This is rare indeed.

Ans. Why truly thus : Doth Satan tell thee thou prayest but faintly, and with very cold Devotion ? answer him thus, and say, I am glad you told me, for this will make me trust the more to Christ's Prayers, and the less to my own ; also I will endeavour henceforward to groan, to sigh, and to be so fervent in my crying at the Throne of Grace, that I will, if I can, make the Heavens rattle again with the mighty Groans thereof. And whereas thou sayest that I am so weak in believing, I am glad you mind me of it, I hope it will henceforward stir me up to cry the more hearrily to God for strong Faith, and make me the more restless till I have it. And seeing thou tellest me that I run so softly, and that I shall go near to miss of Glory ; this also shall be thro' Grace to my Advantage, and cause me to press the more earnestly towards the Mark, for the Price of the high Calling of God in Christ Jesus. And seeing thou dost tell me that my Sins are wondrous great ; hereby thou bringest the Remembrance of the unsupportable Vengeance of God into my Mind, if I die out of Jesus Christ, and also the Necessity of the Blood, Death, and Merits of Christ to help me ; I hope it will make me fly the faster, and press the harder after an Interest in him ; and the rather, because (as thou tellest me) my State will be unspeakably miserable without him. And so all along, if he tell thee of thy Deadness, Dulness, Cold-

Coldness or Unbelief, or the Greatness of thy Sins; answer him, and say, I am glad you told me, I hope it will be a means to make me run faster, seek earnestlier, and to be the more restless after Jesus Christ. If thou dost but get this Art, as to out-run him in his own Shoes, (as I may say) and to make his own Darts to pierce himself, then thou mightest also say, now doth Satan's Temptations, as well as all other things, work together for my Good, for my Advantage, *Rom. viii. 28.*

Object. But I do find so many Weaknesses in every Duty that I perform, as when I pray, when I read, when I hear, or any other Duty, that it maketh me out of Conceit with myself, it maketh me think that my Duties are nothing worth.

Atsw. I answer, It may be it is thy Mercy, that thou art sensible of Infirmities in thy best things thou doest, ay, a greater Mercy than thou art aware of.

Quest. Can it be a Mercy for me to be troubled with my Corruptions? Can it be a Privilege for me to be annoyed with Infirmities, and to have my best Duties infected with it? How can it possibly be?

Answer. Verily thy Sin appearing in thy best Duties, do work for thy Advantage these ways. First, In that thou findest Ground enough thereby to make thee humble; and when thou hast done all, yet to count thyself but an unprofitable Servant. And Secondly, Thou by this Means art taken off from leaning on any thing below a naked Jesus for eternal Life. It is like, if thou wast not sensible of many By-thoughts and Wickednesses in thy best Performances, thou wouldest go near to be some proud, abominable Hypocrite,

or a filly, proud, dissembling Wretch at the best, such a one as would send thy Soul to the Devil in a Bundle of thy own Righteousness; but now thou, thro' Grace, seest that in all and every thing that thou doest, there is Sin enough in it to condemn thee. This in the first Place makes thee have a Care of trusting in thy own doings. And secondly, sheweth thee, that there is nothing in thyself which will do thee any good, by working in thee, as to the meritorious Cause of thy Salvation: No, but thou must have a Share in the Birth of Jesus, in the Death of Jesus, in the Blood, the Resurrection, Ascension, and Intercession of a crucified Jesus: And how sayest thou? doth not thy finding of this in thee cause thee to fly from a depending on thy own doings? And doth it not also make thee more earnestly to groan after the Lord Jesus? Yea, and let me tell thee also, it will be a Cause to make thee admire the Freeness and Tender-heartedness of Christ to thee, when he shall lift up the Light of his Countenance upon thee, because he hath regarded such a one as thou, sinful thou: And therefore in this Sense, it will be a Mercy to the Saints, that they do find the Reliques of Sin still struggling in their Hearts. But this is not simply the Nature of Sin, but the Mercy and Wisdom of God, who causeth *all things to work together for the good of those that love and fear God*, Rom. viii. And therefore whatever thou findest in thy Soul, tho' it be Sin of never so black a Soul-scaring Nature, let it move thee to run the faster to the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt not be ashamed, that is, of thy running to him.

But Secondly, When thou dost apprehend that thou art defiled, and also thy best Duties annoy'd
with

with many Weaknesses, let that Scripture come in-
to thy Thoughts, which saith, *Of him are ye in
Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us Wisdom,
Righteousness, Sanctification and Redemption*: And
if thou shalt understand that, what thou canst not
not find in thyself, thou shalt find in Christ. Art
thou a Fool in thy self? Then Christ is made
of God thy Wisdom. Art thou unrighteous in
thyself? Christ is made of God thy Righteousness.
Dost thou find that there is but little sanctifying
Grace in thy Soul? Still here is Christ made thy
Sanctification; and all this in his own Person with-
out thee, without thy Wisdom, without thy Right-
eousness, without thy Sanctification, in his own
Person in thy Father's Presence, appearing there
perfect Wisdom, Righteousness, and Sanctification
in his own Person, I say, as a publick Person for
thee: So that thou mayest believe and say to thy
Soul, My Soul, tho' thou doest find innumerable
Infirmities of thy self, and in thy Actions; yet
look upon thy Jesus, the Man Jesus, he is Wis-
dom, and that for thee, to govern thee, to take
Care for thee, and to order all things for the best
for thee. He is also thy Righteousness now at
God's Right Hand, always shining before the Eyes
of his Glory: So that there it is unmoveable;
though thou art in ever such a sad Condition,
yet thy Righteousness, which is the Son of God,
God-man, shines as bright as ever, and is as much
accepted of God as ever: (O this sometimes hath
been Life to me.) And so, whatever thou, O my
Soul, findest wanting in thy self, through Faith,
thou shalt see all laid up for thee in Jesus Christ,
whether it be Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctifi-
cation, or Redemption. Nay, not only so; but

as I said before, he is all these in his own Person without thee in the Presence of his Father for thee.

Object. But now, if any should say in their Hearts, O, but I am one of the Old Covenant-men, I doubt, that is, I doubt I am not within this glorious Covenant of Grace. And how if I should not?

Ans. Well, thou fearest thou art one of the Old Covenant, a Son of the Bond-Woman. In the first Place, know that thou wast one of them by Nature, for all by Nature are under that Covenant; but set the Case that thou art to this Day under that, yet let me tell thee in the first Place, there is Hopes for thee; for there is a Gap open, a Way made for Souls to come from under the Covenant of Works, by Christ, *For he hath broken down the middle Wall of Partition between us and you*, Eph. ii. 14. And therefore if thou wouldest be saved, thou mayest come to Christ. If thou wantest a Righteousness (as I said before) there is one in Christ. If thou wouldest be washed, thou mayest come to Christ, and if thou wouldest be justified, there is Justification enough in the Lord Jesus Christ. That's the first.

Ans. 2. And Secondly, Thou canst not be so willing to come to Christ, as he is willing thou shouldest come to him; witness his coming down from Heaven, his Humiliation, his spilling of his Blood from both his Cheeks, *Luke xxiii. 24.* by Sweat under the Burden of Sin, and his shedding of it by the Spear, when he hanged on the Cross. It appears also by his Promises, by his Invitations, by his sending forth his Messengers to preach the same to poor Sinners, and threatneth Damnation upon this very Account, namely, the Neglect of him; and declares that all the Thousands,
and

and ten Thousands of Sins in the World, should not be able to damn those that believed in him ; that he would pardon all, forgive and pass by all, if they would but come unto him : Moreover, promiseth to cast out none, no, not the poorest, vilest, contemptiblest Creature in the whole World. *Come unto me all* (every one, though you be ever so many, ever so vile, though your Load be ever so heavy and intolerable, though you deserve no Help, not the least Help, no Mercy, not the least Compassion) yet *cast your Burthen upon me, and you shall find Rest for your Souls.* Come unto me, and I will heal you, love you, teach you, and tell you the Way to the Kingdom of Heaven : Come unto me, and I will succour you, help you, and keep you from all Devils and their Temptations, from the Law and its Curses, and from being for ever overcome with any Evil whatever. Come unto me for what you need, and tell me what you would have, or what you would have me do for you, and all my Strength, Love, Wisdom, and Interest that I have with my Father, shall be laid out for you. Come unto me, your sweet Jesus, your loving and tender-hearted Jesus, Everlasting and Sin-pardoning Jesus. Come unto me, and I will wash you, and put my Righteousness upon you, pray to my Father for you, and send my Spirit into you, that you might be saved. Therefore,

Consider besides this, what a Privilege thou shalt have at the Day of Judgment above Thousands, if thou do indeed and in Truth close in with this Jesus, and accept of him ; for thou shalt not only have Privilege in this Life, but in the Life everlasting, even at the Time of Christ's second coming from Heaven ; for then when
there.

there shall be the whole World gathered together, and all the good Angels, bad Angels, Saints, and Reprobates, when all thy Friends and Kindred, with thy Neighbours on thy Right-hand and on the Left shall be with thee, beholding the wonderful Glory and Majesty of the Son of God; then shall the Son of Glory, even Jesus, in the very View and Sight of them all, smile and look kindly upon thee; when a Smile or kind Look from Christ shall be worth more than ten thousand Worlds, then thou shalt have it. You know it is counted an Honour for a poor Man to be favourably looked upon by a Judge, or a King, in the Sight of Lords, Earls, Dukes, and Princes; why, thus it will be with thee in the Sight of all the princely Saints, Angels, and Devils, in the Sight of all the great Nobles in the World; then even thou that closest in with Christ, be thou rich or poor, be thou bond or free, wise or foolish, if thou close with him, he will say unto thee, *Well done my good and faithful Servant*, even in the midst of the whole World; they that love thee shall see it, and they that hate thee shall all to their Shame behold it; for if thou fear him here in Secret, he will make it manifest even as the Day upon the House-Top.

Secondly, Not only thus; but thou shalt also be lovingly received, and tenderly embraced of him at that Day, when Christ hath Thousands of gallant Saints, as old *Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah*, together with all the Prophets, and Apostles, and Martyrs, attending on him; together with many Thousands of glittering Angels ministring before him: Besides, when the Ungodly shall appear there with their pale Faces, with their guilty Consciences, and trembling

bling Souls, that would then give thousands and ten thousands of Worlds (if they had so many) if they could enjoy but one loving Look from Christ. I say then, then shalt thou have the Hand of Christ reached to thee kindly to receive thee, saying, Come thou blessed, step up hither; thou wast willing to leave all for me, and now will I give all to thee; here is a Throne, a Crown, a Kingdom, take them; thou wast not ashamed of me when thou wast in the World among my Enemies, and now will not I be ashamed of thee before thine Enemies, but will in the View of all these Devils and damned Reprobates, promote thee to Honour and Dignity. *Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you, from the Foundation of the World:* Thou shalt see that those who have served me in Truth, shall lose nothing by the Means: No, but ye shall be as Pillars in my Temple, and Inheritors of my Glory, and shall have Place to walk in among my Saints and Angels, *Zech. iii. 7.* O! who would not be in this Condition? who would not be in this Glory? It will be such a Soul-ravishing Glory, that I am ready to think the whole reprobate World will be ready to run mad, *Deut. xxviii. 34.* to think that they should miss of it; then will the vilest Drunkard, Swearer, Liar, and unclean Person willingly cry, *Lord, Lord, open to us;* yet be denied Entrance, and thou in the mean time embraced, entertained, made welcome, have a fair Mitre set upon thy Head, and clothed with immortal Glory, *Zech. iii. 5.* O therefore let all this move thee, and be of Weight upon thy Soul to close in with Jesus, this tender-hearted Jesus. And if yet for all what I have said, thy Sins do still stick with thee, and
thou.

thou findest thy hellish Heart loth to let them go, think with thyself in this manner : Shall I have my Sins, and lose my Soul? Will they do me any good when Christ comes? Would not Heaven be better to me than my Sins? And the Company of God, Christ, Saints and Angels, be better than the Company of *Cain, Judas, Balaam*, with the Devils in the Furnace of Fire. Canst thou now that readest or hearest these Lines, turn thy Back, and go on in thy Sins? Canst thou set so light of Heaven, of God, of Christ, and the Salvation of thy poor, yet precious Soul? Canst thou hear of Christ, his bloody Sweat and Death, and not be taken with it, and not be grieved for it, and also converted by it? If so, I might lay down several Considerations to stir thee up to mend thy Pace towards Heaven; but I shall not, there is enough written already to leave thy Soul without Excuse, and to bring thee down with a Vengeance into Hell-fire, devouring Fire, the Lake of Fire, eternal, everlasting Fire; O! to make thee swim and rowl up and down in the Flames of the Furnace of Fire.

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